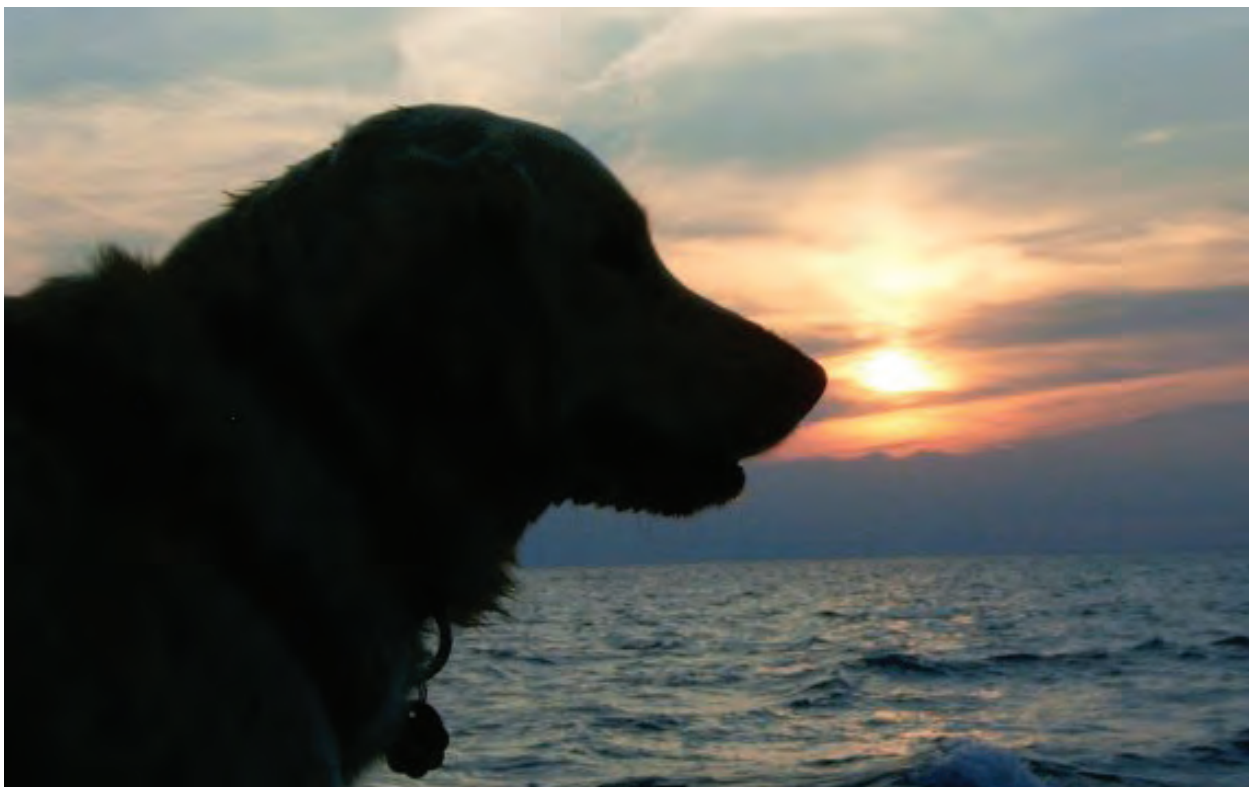




CANADA
4-H Ontario

www.4-hontario.ca

4-H ONTARIO PROJECT



Canine

REFERENCE MANUAL & ACTIVITY GUIDE

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
My health to better living,
For my club, my community,
my country, and my world.

The 4-H Motto

Learn To Do By Doing

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CANADA

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4-H Ontario is pleased to be able to provide project resource reference manuals for use by volunteers in clubs. 4-H Ontario screens and trains volunteers to equip them with the tools to serve as positive role models for youth. With so many topics to choose from, 4-H volunteers are trusted to use these resources to provide safe and quality programming while using their judgement to assess the appropriateness of activities for their particular group of youth. By downloading any 4-H resource, you agree to use it for 4-H purposes and give credit to the original creators. Your provincial 4-H organization may have restrictions on the types of 4-H projects or activities which can be completed in your region.

4-H Ontario grants permission to 4-H Volunteers to photocopy this 4-H project resource for use in their local 4-H program. All information presented in this Project Resource was accurate at the time of printing.

This project resource was developed in co-operation with 4-H Canada and supported by funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.



4-H Inclusion Statement

4-H in Canada is open to all* without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or, mental or physical disability.**

4-H is dedicated to providing a safe and inclusive environment that allows for universal access and participation. Where barriers to participation are identified, 4-H will, with reasonable accommodation, adapt programs, rules, policies, or expectations to reduce or remove the barriers.

Any accommodations, changes or exceptions will be assessed on an individual basis, taking into account the individual experience of the member and their family. The physical safety and emotional well-being of members, leaders, staff and volunteers is 4-H's highest priority, and is the ultimate consideration in final decisions.

4-H Canada and local 4-H organizations consider inclusion a priority. Leaders are encouraged to work with individuals and their families to identify and discuss accommodations as required, and to reach out to provincial or national office staff for help with unresolved concerns.

**This applies to youth members (ages 6 to 21), volunteers, leaders, staff and professionals.*

***Definition of discrimination as per Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.*

Déclaration sur l'inclusion des 4-H

L'adhésion aux 4-H au Canada est ouverte à tous les jeunes* sans discrimination fondée sur la race, l'origine nationale ou ethnique, la couleur de la peau, la religion, le sexe, l'âge ou le handicap mental ou physique. **

Les 4-H ont pour mission d'offrir un environnement sécuritaire et inclusif qui permet l'accès et la participation de tous. Lorsque des obstacles à la participation sont décelés, les 4-H adapteront, à l'aide de mesures d'adaptation raisonnables, les programmes, les règles, les politiques ou les attentes afin de réduire ou d'éliminer ces obstacles.

Toute mesure d'adaptation, modification ou exception sera évaluée au cas par cas, en tenant compte de l'expérience personnelle du membre et de sa famille. La sécurité physique et le bien-être émotionnel des membres, des animateurs et des animatrices, des membres du personnel et des bénévoles sont la priorité absolue des 4-H et constituent le facteur ultime à considérer lors de la prise des décisions définitives.

Les 4-H du Canada et les organisations locales des 4-H considèrent l'inclusion comme étant une priorité. Les animateurs et les animatrices sont encouragés à collaborer avec les personnes et leurs familles afin de définir et d'examiner les mesures d'adaptation, selon les besoins, et de communiquer avec le personnel du bureau provincial ou national pour obtenir de l'aide en cas de préoccupations non résolues.

**Ceci s'applique aux jeunes membres (âgés de 6 à 21 ans), aux bénévoles, aux animateurs, aux membres du personnel et aux professionnels.*

***Selon la définition de discrimination en vertu de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés*

Welcome to 4-H Ontario's Canine Project!

The purpose of the 4-H Canine Project is to help members learn about dogs and how to properly care for them. By participating in the 4-H Canine Project, members can increase their knowledge of canine husbandry as well as improve their dog handling skills by learning basic safe handling principles. Members will learn about their own dog(s) if they have one, other dog breeds, safety, socialization, health, anatomy, behaviour, reproduction, nutrition, obedience, agility, performance events, conformation, showmanship, sportsmanship and careers for both humans and dogs.

Members will develop respect for dogs, responsibility in caring for dogs and discipline in the way dogs are handled. Members will also develop patience in training and neatness in both their own and their animal's appearance and will learn and grow personally as they participate in the many activities this project has to offer. There are several ways to participate in the canine project, even if a member doesn't own their own dog.

Objectives

1. To understand the history of dogs
2. To increase knowledge levels about the husbandry of dogs
3. To learn how to safely work with and around dogs
4. To learn about proper animal welfare and to be able to identify canine related health issues
5. To understand canine behaviour
6. To learn and differentiate between various breeds of dogs
7. To learn about conformation and dog shows
8. To gain knowledge about obedience training, agility and other performance events
9. To gain an appreciation for careers related to dogs and for dogs
10. To learn about the elements of judging and public speaking
11. To learn the proper use of parliamentary procedure

How to Use This Manual

The Reference Manual and Activity Guide:

The reference book and activity guide is laid out into 8 sections:

Section 1 – Introduction to Dogs

Section 2 – Canine Breeds

Section 3 – Canine Health

Section 4 – Canine Nutrition & Exercise

Section 5 – Basic Training & Obedience

Section 6 – Conformation, Showmanship & Sportsmanship

Section 7 – Agility Training and Performance Events -
Introduction to Dog Sports and Activities

Section 8 – Careers for You and Your Dog

Within each section are several units. Each unit could be used as a meeting. Use your own discretion as to which units are appropriate for the age and knowledge of the members in your club. There are more units than can be covered in 12 hours of a typical 4-H project. A member could take this project for multiple years and learn different content each year.

Each unit contains Setting Objectives, Suggested Learning Outcomes, Roll Call questions, a suggested agenda, Topic Information, Activities and a Digging Deeper section. Activities should be used in combination with the discussion of topic information to teach members in a hands-on, interactive learning environment.

INCLUDING STEM IN THE 4-H CANINE PROJECT

WHAT IS STEM AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Since 1915, 4-H in Ontario has engaged youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This has traditionally meant a solid focus on agricultural science, mechanics, entrepreneurship, natural sciences and household science. Today, 4-H has grown to include rocketry, robotics, computer science, environmental sciences, and more. 4-H provides hands-on learning experiences to encourage learning about the world around us. Our lives are completely immersed in science and technology.

Understanding how science, engineering, and technology impact our lives, solve problems and create new ones makes it easier to navigate our modern world.

In school, science classes need to cover a broad range of topics in a limited amount of time while STEM in 4-H allows members and leaders time to dig deeper into ideas and concepts and to spend as much time as desired to work on projects based on personal interests, questions, and skills.

STEM in 4-H allows a person to work on their own questions, design their own tests, create their own models, build their understanding, and share their work with others – learn to do by doing. That's what science and engineering are, trying to understand the natural universe and develop solutions to the problems faced in our world today. Science is inquiry that uses a specific approaches and skills. But all learning is an inquiry process so working with science helps develop your learning muscles.

Within 4-H, the STEM process can go even further to include the Arts, thus changing the acronym to STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math.

STEAM IN 4-H ONTARIO PROJECTS

As you work through the Canine Project, you will see STEAM integrated throughout the project within almost all of the activities provided. Examples of activities include 'Walking Anatomy Lesson, Healthy or Not, Dog Food Diary and Homemade Dog Treats,' amongst many others.

STEAM can be challenging but it can also be fun! Be sure to try out the activities. Observe what works and what doesn't and how activities can be changed slightly to get different results. It's all a part of the STEAM learning process!

Table of Contents

Section 1 – Introduction to the Canine Project

- Introduction to Dogs

Section 2 – Canine Breeds

- Breeds of Dogs
- Communication and Behaviour
- Puppy Care & Socialization – Selecting the Dog that’s Right for You

Section 3 – Canine Health

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Canine Health
- Canine Reproduction
- Grooming For Your Dog’s Health

Section 4 – Canine Nutrition and Exercise

- Nutrition and Exercise

Section 5 – Basic Training and Obedience

- Getting Started with Training
- Obedience

Section 6 – Conformation, Showmanship & Sportsmanship

- Conformation, Showmanship and Sportsmanship

Section 7 - Agility and Other Performance Events

- Agility Training and Performance Events

Section 8 – Careers for You & Your Dog

- Careers For You and Your Dog

Planning a Meeting

Plan your meetings well. Review all the information well in advance so you are prepared and ready!

Before Each Meeting:

- Read the topic information and activities and photocopy any relevant resources for the members' Record Books.
- Be familiar with the topic information for each meeting. Think of imaginative ways to present the information to the members. Do not rely on just reading the information out loud. Review available resources, plan the meetings and choose activities and themes that complement the ages and interests of your members.
- Gather any equipment and/or resources that will be needed to complete the meeting.
- At least 12 hours of club meeting time is required for every project; including club business, specific project information and social recreation. The delivery format for that material is left to the discretion of the leaders. Before each meeting, create a timeline to ensure that you are providing an adequate amount of instructional time for club completion. Note: the best practice recommendation is that a club have multiple meeting times for each project.

Included on the following page is a Leader's Planning Chart to help with the planning of meetings. In addition to the chart, keep track of what went well and what should be changed next time. That way, each time this project is run, the content of the meetings can be different!

When planning each meeting, a typical 4-H meeting agenda should include the following:

- Welcome & Call to Order
 - 4-H Pledge
 - Roll Call
 - Parliamentary Procedure:
 - o Secretary's Report
 - o Treasurer's Report (if any)
 - o Press Report
 - o New Business: local and provincial 4-H activities/opportunities, upcoming club activities
- Meeting content and activities
- Clean-up
- Social Recreation and/or refreshments
- Adjournment

Judging and Communications:

Each meeting must include either a judging or public speaking activity.

- Judging gives the members an opportunity to use judging techniques as part of the learning process. Through judging, members learn to evaluate, make decisions and communicate with others. They also develop critical thinking skills, confidence and self-esteem. Many examples are used in this reference book but use your imagination! As long as members are setting criteria and critically thinking about where items fit within that set of criteria, they are learning the basic skills of judging!
- A communications activity has been provided for each meeting but can be included in the Roll Call or social recreation time. These activities do not need to involve the topic of dogs as the outcome is more about understanding the concepts of effective communication.

Electing your Executive

Elections can be chaired by a youth leader, senior member or club leader. The person chairing the elections is not eligible for any positions.

Procedure:

1. All positions are declared vacant by the chairperson, who indicates this by saying "I'd like to declare all positions vacant."
2. The group decides on the method of voting (i.e. show of hands, ballot or standing).
3. The chairperson accepts nomination from members for each position being filled. Nominations do not require a seconder. Nominations are closed by motion or declaration by the chairperson.
4. Each member nominated is asked if he/she will stand for the position. Names of members who decline are crossed off.
5. Voting takes place by selected method and majority rules (i.e. member with most votes).
6. Announce the name of the successful member. Offer congratulations and thank all others that ran for the position.
7. If ballots are used, a motion to destroy the ballots is required and voted on.

Steps in Making a Motion

The motion is a very important key to having good meetings. Motions are a way of introducing topics for discussion and allowing each member to speak and vote. Any member can make a motion.

1. Address the chairperson (i.e. raise your hand).
2. Wait for the chairperson to acknowledge you.
3. Make the motion: "I move that..."
4. Another person seconds the motion: "I second the motion."
5. Chairperson states the motion.
6. Chairperson calls for discussion of the motion.
7. Chairperson restates the motion.
8. Chairperson calls the vote: "All in favour? Opposed?"
9. Chairperson announces the result of the vote: "Motion carried" or "Motion defeated."

LEADER'S PLANNING CHART

Meeting #	Date/Place/ Time	Topics Covered	Activities	Materials Needed

As a club volunteer your responsibilities are to:

- Complete the volunteer screening process and attend a volunteer training session.
- Notify the local association of the club, arrange a meeting schedule and participate in club meetings, activities and the Achievement program.
- Review the project material in the Reference and Record books to familiarize yourself with the information and adapt it to fit your group. Be well organized and teach the material based on your group's age, interest and experience level.
- Organize the club so members gain parliamentary procedure, judging and communication skills.
- Have membership lists completed and submitted along with fee collected (if applicable) by the end of the second meeting.
- Have members fill out a Participant Agreement Form and identify any health concerns. Ensure that all members, leaders and parent helpers know the appropriate actions during any emergency. Check with members for any food allergies or dietary restrictions and plan snacks accordingly.

As a club member your responsibilities are to:

- Participate in at least 2/3 of his/her own club meeting time. Clubs must have a minimum of 12 hours of meeting time.
- Complete the project requirement to the satisfaction of the club leaders.
- Take part in the project Achievement Program.
- Fill in and complete the Record Book.
- Complete any other project as required by the club leaders.

Achievement Program Ideas/Suggestions

- If members have a project animal for this club, show the dog at a local fair/show.
- Have members make a presentation at school about the 4-H Canine Project and/or their project animal.
- Have members make a presentation at school about how to be safe around dogs.
- Create a skit about dogs and perform it at school, at a senior's home, at another organization's meeting, etc.
- Bake dog treats and have a 'dog' bake sale as a fundraiser.
- If there are members with dog's that have excelled during the club with behaviour and training, go with the club to a senior's home for a visit. Plan activities for your visit that everyone can participate in.

Special Projects

These projects are done outside of meeting time and are for members interested in doing more – often senior members. It's up to you as the leaders to decide if you will require members to complete a Special Project for club completion. Some ideas include:

- Visit a local animal shelter. Interview someone who works there and write a press release for the newspaper and/or post online.
- Create a display about a topic related to dogs.
- Create a video about a topic related to the canine industry. Post on YouTube.
- Find out if anyone in your area has a therapy dog that they take to a hospital or senior's home. Interview them and write a press release for the newspaper and/or post online.

Tour & Guest Speaker Ideas

- Visit a local veterinary clinic. Have a veterinarian or animal health technician give a tour and speak about the clinic.
- Visit an animal shelter/rescue facility.
- Visit a dog show (breed show, obedience trials, agility or performance event).
- Have guest speakers attend meetings to supplement the material in the Reference Manual and Activity Guide. Speakers could include a veterinarian, canine nutritionist, dog breeder, dog groomer, pet store supply owner, dog walker, dog trainer.
- Visit a local pet food and supply store.
- Tour a facility that makes dog food.

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service,

My health to better living,

For my club, my community,

my country, and my world.



CANADA

4-H Ontario

Canine Project References and Resources

Agility Association of Canada <https://www.aac.ca/All Things Dogs> <https://www.allthingsdogs.com>
American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>
Aqua Dogs <https://aquadogs.org/>
Canada Barn Hunts <http://www.canadabarnhunts.com/>
Canadian Association of Guide & Assistance Dog Schools <http://www.cagads.com/>
Canadian Association of Rally Obedience <https://www.canadianrallyo.ca/>
Canadian Border Services Agency –Detector Dog Service Program <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-securite/dds-scd/menu-eng.html>
Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/en>
Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) <http://www.cnib.ca>
Canadian Pet Expo www.canadianpetexpo.ca
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net>
Canine Freestyle Federation Inc. <https://www.canine-freestyle.org/>
Canine Watersports Canada <https://www.caninewatersportscanada.com/>
Dock Dogs <https://dockdogs.com/>
Doggone Crazy <https://doggonecrazy.ca/>
Doggone Safe <https://www.doggonesafe.com/>
Dog Resource Handbook –Ohio State University,
College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, 2016 Government of Ontario <https://www.ontario.ca>
Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides <https://www.dogguides.com>
New Hamburg Veterinary Clinic <https://newhamburgvetclinic.com>
North American Dog Agility Council <https://www.nadac.com/>
North American Flyball Association <http://www.flyball.org/>
Ontario Dock Dogs <http://ontariodockdogs.com/>
Ontario Society for the Prevention & Cruelty of Animals (OSPCA) <https://ontariospca.ca/>
Ontario Veterinary Clinic, University of Guelph <http://ovc.uoguelph.ca/>
Pet Food Association of Canada <https://pfac.com>
Purina <https://www.purina.com>
Rockstar Agility Network (formerly known as Dogs on Course in North America) <https://rsagility.com/>
Royal Canin https://www.royalcanin.com/ca/en_ca
St. John Ambulance <https://www.sja.ca>
Whole Dog Journal <https://www.whole-dog-journal.com>
Wounded Warriors of Canada
PTSD Service Dog Program <https://woundedwarriors.ca/our-programs/ptsd-service-dog-program/>

Glossary & Acronyms – Canine Project

anestrus - in the estrous cycle, the period between diestrus and proestrus, when there is no hormonal activity

angulation - angle made by two bones at a joint as in “shoulder angulation” or “hock and stifle angulation”

assistance dogs - dogs that provide a service to their human partners; types include guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs

bait - food or other object used in the show ring to maintain the dog’s attention

bat ear - an ear that is carried erect with a rounded tip

bitch - a female dog

bite - the way in which the top and bottom teeth meet when a dog closes its mouth. Bites can be level, scissors, undershot or overshot

blaze - a streak of colour between the eyes

brachycephalic - one of three basic skull or head shapes in dogs; a broad skull base and a short muzzle

bridge - a word or sound that tells your dog his behaviour is correct

brindle - an even mixture of black hair with hairs of a lighter colour

brisket - ribcage between and just behind the front legs

button ear - an ear with a flap that folds forward, with the tip lying close to the skull so as to cover the opening

Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) – Largest dog recording organization in Canada. It is chartered under the Animal Purebred Act.

Canine Companion Number (CCN) - means that mixed and unrecognized breed dogs are allowed to participate in CKC performance events of agility, obedience and rally obedience trials

canine teeth - the four sharp-pointed cutting teeth the upper two are sometimes called the eyeteeth

cardiac muscles - specialized muscles that form the heart

cardiovascular system - a system comprised of the heart and blood vessels as well as the spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow; responsible for pumping and using blood through the body

carnassial teeth - two deeply-rooted, fourth upper premolars and the first lower molars; the shearing teeth

CD - Companion Dog

CDI - Companion Dog Intermediate

CDX - Companion Dog Excellent

clip - the pattern or style of hair cut

conformation - the form, structure, make, shape and arrangement of the parts of the dog as they conform to the breed standard; how the dog is put together; its structure

core vaccines - vaccines that should be used routinely in a preventative health program

coronavirus - a highly contagious viral infection of the gastrointestinal tract

cow-hocked - the hocks turn in towards each other and the toes point out

crank tail - a tail that extends level with the topline, then drops down and levels off the final quarter of its length

crop - to remove part of the dog's ear leather

crossbreed - a dog whose parents represent two different breeds

croup - the area of the back between the hip bones and the base of the tail

cryptorchid - a condition in the male in which the testicles have not descended into the scrotum

curled tail - a tail that is carried up and over the back. It can be a tight curl over the back only, a single curl falling over the loin with the tip toward the thigh or curled to one

curly coat - a coat in which the hair is naturally curled

dam - the mother of a litter of puppies

dewclaw - the extra toe and nail on the inside of the dog's leg

dewlap - loose fold of skin under the throat of some dogs

diestrus - the last stage of the estrous cycle

digestive system - a system by which food that has been eaten is reduced into nutrients that a dog's body can absorb and use or turn into waste that it can excrete

dish-faced - when the top jaw line is concave (the opposite of Roman-nosed)

distemper - a contagious and sometimes fatal disease caused by a virus that attacks every tissue in the dog's body, with severe cases progressing to the central nervous system and most dogs dying of neurological complications

dock - to shorten or remove part of a dog's tail

dolichocephalic - one of three basic skull or head shapes in dogs; a narrow skull and elongated muzzle

double-curl tail - a tail that curls over the dog's back in a whirlpool shape

down in pastern - a weak pastern having too much slope for the breed

drop ear - one of a number of terms used to characterize ears in which the ear leather is folded at least to some degree and hanging down

ear carriage - the combined visual effects of ear placement and position on the skull, together with the use of the ear

endocrine system - a system made up of glands and other tissues that manufacture hormones such as thyroid, insulin, testosterone and estrogen in response to specific stimuli and that create a specific action

estrous - a bitch's reproductive cycle, which consists of four stages; anestrus, proestrus, estrus and diestrus

estrus - the stage in the estrous cycle when a female accepts a male for breeding; characterized by swelling of the vulva and discharge; also called heat

eye - in conformation, the shape of the tissue that surrounds the eye. The four main eye shapes are almond, oval, round and triangular.

feather - fringe of hair on legs and tail

feet - in conformation, a dog's foot can be described as a cat foot, a hare foot, an oval foot or webbed. Feet can also be flat or splayed

fiddle front - bowed front legs, with elbows out from body, pasterns close together and toes pointing out

fleas - a common external parasite that carry a number of diseases; they also cause discomfort

flews - loose hanging upper lips

forequarters - in conformation, the combined front assembly starting at the shoulder and then moving down the front leg to the upper arm, lower arm and pastern and ending at the forefoot

free stack - to pose a dog without using your hands

front - the chest and legs of the dog when viewed head on

gait - to move a dog at a trot

free stack - to pose a dog without using your hands

front - the chest and legs of the dog when viewed head on

gait - to move a dog at a trot

Gastric Dilation-Volvulus (GDV) - a life-threatening emergency characterized by a swelling (dilation) of the stomach from gas and frothy material; commonly referred to as bloat; also called gastric torsion or a twisted stomach

gay tail - a tail carried upright, above horizontal

gestation - the length of pregnancy, from fertilization (conception) to whelping (giving birth)

GMOTCH - Grand Master Obedience Trial Champion

guard hair - longer, stiffer hairs that are not seasonally shed like the undercoat

haw - the third eyelid

heartworms - an internal parasite that occupies the right chambers of the heart and the larger vessels

height - measured from the highest point at the withers to the ground

hindquarters - in conformation, the rear assembly of the dog starting at the pelvic girdle, moving down the hind leg to the upper thigh, stifle joint and patella, lower thigh, hock joint, hock and rear foot

HIT - High in Trial

hock - formed by the second thigh and metatarsis

in-breeding - breeding closely related animals, such as mother to son or brother to sister

incisors - front teeth of each jaw between the canines, six upper and six lower

integumentary - in physiology, the system that makes up a body's covering; the skin and hair

kennel cough - a highly contagious respiratory disease. The three most common viruses and bacteria involved in canine respiratory diseases are Canine Parainfluenza (CPI), Canine Adenovirus Type 2 (CAV-2) and Bordetella bronchiseptica bacteria (Bordetella)

leather - the ear flap

Leptospirosis – a bacterial disease that infects both animals and humans caused by one of four common strains of *Leptospira interrogans sensu lato*. Leptospirosis is preventable by vaccination and treatable with antibiotics.

lice - an external parasite specific to its host species

litter - puppies born to the dam in one group

loin - the area of the back between the last rib and the hipbones

long coat - a coat that is long and requires frequent grooming

lure - a treat carried in your hand that your dog follows

Lyme disease - a disease transmitted by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*, usually through the bite of a deer tick. Treatment includes antibiotics

mask - dark colour on the muzzle

medium coat - a coat that is generally longer than one inch

merle - a coat colour with dark blotches against a light background of the same colour

mesocephalic - one of three basic skull or head shapes in dogs; a wider skull base with a long face

mixed breed - a dog that is a mixture of two or more breeds, typically of unknown descent

MOTCH - Master Obedience Trial Champion

muzzle - the jaws, lips and nose

nervous system - a system that regulates most activities of the dog's body, conveys sensations and coordinates movements; keeps the body in touch with and responsive to its environment

neuter (castrate) - to remove the testicles in the male

nutrient - a substance that nourishes the metabolic processes of the body

occiput - bump at the top rear of the skull in most breeds

ocular - of or relating to eyes or eyesight

olfactory - used in smelling or related to the sense of smell

operant conditioning - the theory that behavior is shaped by positive and negative reinforcement or punishment

OTCH - Obedience Trial Champion

otter tail - a tail that is thick at the base round and tapering, with the hair parted or divided on the underside

OTHX - Obedience Trial Champion Excellent

pad - thick, tough cover of the paw cushion

Parvovirus - a highly contagious, rapidly progressing and often fatal viral disease caused by a pathogen that attacks the gastrointestinal tract and possibly the heart muscle

pastern - the area between the knee and the foot on the front leg, and between the hock and the foot on the back leg

PCD - Pre-Companion Dog

pedigree - list of a particular dog's parents, grandparents and great grandparents (the dog's family tree)

plume tail - a tail with a long fringe of hair on the tail that covers either part of the tail

pompom - ball of hair left on the tail of poodles

prick ear - ear carried erect and usually pointed at the top

proestrus - the stage in a female's estrous cycle characterized by a bloody discharge

puppy - typically a dog less than a year old but varies by breed

purebred - a dog whose sire and dam belong to the same breed and who themselves are of unmixed descent since the recognition of that breed

rabies - a viral infection that attacks the central nervous system in all warm-blooded animals, common in raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes

recognized breed - a breed that The Canadian Kennel Club is authorized to register in accordance with the Animal Pedigree Act or a dog of a breed included in the CKC Miscellaneous Breed list

reproductive system - the unique male and female organs responsible for the production of offspring

respiratory system - a system in the body by which oxygen is taken into (inspiration) and an exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen takes place (expiration)

ring tail - a tail that curls in a circle

ringworm - a highly contagious fungus infecting dogs, humans and other mammals

rose ear - a small drop ear that folds over and back to expose part of the inside of the ear

saber tail - a tail carried low in a semicircle

sable - hair a lighter shade at the base with darker tips

screw tail - a tail that is naturally short and twisted in a spiral fashion

semipricket - ear carried erect with just the tips leaning forward

sickle tail - a tail carried out and up in a semicircle but not touching the back

sire - father of a litter of puppies

skeletal muscles - muscles attached to bones through tendons; move the body through contraction or relaxation; also called voluntary or striated muscles

smooth coat - a short, flat coat

smooth muscles - muscles that control movement of the organs in the body cavities; also called involuntary, striated or visceral muscles

snap tail - a tail lying directly on the back with the tip pointing towards the head

snipy - narrow, weak muscle

spay - removal of a female's productive organs

spirochete - a corkscrew-shaped bacterium

splay foot - a flat foot with toes spread, little cushion and often crooked tails

squirrel tail - a tail curving forward over the back towards the head

stack - to pose a dog

standard - a description of the ideal dog of a particular breed

stifle - the joint formed by the upper and lower thighs; the dog's knee

stool - bowel movement (feces)

stop - the area between the eyes where the muzzle ends and the skull begins

straight shoulders - poor angulation of the shoulder bones where the scapula is vertical rather than angled

sway backed - a dip in the topline between the withers and hips

targeting - teaching your dog to touch or follow your hand or a training aid, such as a wand or stick

temperament - the physical and mental characteristics of an individual dog made evident through its reaction to change in its environment

ticking - darker coloured hairs on a light background

topline - in conformation, the dog's outline from just behind the withers to the tail set

tri-colour - dogs of three colours: black, white and tan

tuck-up - abdomen drawn up tight to the loins

tulip ears - ears carried erect with the tips falling forward

UD - Utility Dog

unrecognized breed - a dog of known ancestry not on the CKC list of recognized or miscellaneous breeds, and that is registered with a registry recognized by the CKC

urinary system - a system that includes the kidneys, ureters, bladder and urethra and that is responsible for filtering waste products, maintaining water and electrolyte balance and stimulating production of red blood cells

vocalization - vocal sounds made or uttered to convey a variety of meanings

walleye - pale blue eye

wean - the process of getting an infant mammal adjusted to eating food rather than drinking its mother's milk

whelp - to give birth (parturition) to puppies

whip tail - a tail carried stiffly straight out and pointed

wirehaired or broken coat - a coat that has a broken coat or hard, coarse and wiry texture

withers - the highest point of the dog's shoulder (top of the shoulder blades at the junction of the neck, where a dog is measured)

zoonosis - diseases that can be passed from animals, whether wild or domesticated, to humans and vice versa

INTRODUCTION TO THE CANINE PROJECT



SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION TO DOGS

Setting Objectives

Having a dog in your life can be a rewarding, fulfilling experience but along with having a dog comes responsibility for a living, breathing animal. From learning about breeds of dogs, health, nutrition, obedience, showmanship, conformation, agility and careers with dogs, this project covers a wide variety of topics so you can be the best dog owner possible. A dog is a full-time commitment. We only get to spend part of our lives with a dog but to the dog, its their whole life with us.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To learn about the history of dogs
- To learn how to introduce dogs to other humans and other dogs in a meeting setting
- Members understand the factors that influence where food is grown and produced.
- To gain an appreciation for having multiple dogs in one area
- To understand the benefits of having a dog

Roll Calls

- Tell the group one interesting thing about your dog OR Tell the group one reason you would like to get a dog (if the member doesn't own a dog).
- Name one thing a good dog owner does for their dog.
- Do you prefer small, medium or large dogs? Why?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Election of Officers	20 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Introduction to the Canine Project Tips for Introducing Dogs and Having Dogs at Your Meeting History of Dogs The Benefits of Having a Dog The Creed of the 4-H Canine Pet Owner <u>Activities</u> The Creed of the 4-H Canine Pet Owner Dog's Are for Life - the Life of the Dog! How Well Do You Know Your Dog? Caring For My Pet	70 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Choosing a Dog	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

Dogs serve a large variety of purposes. Assistance dogs help people with hearing, sight, medical and mobility issues to help people be able to be more independent. There are dogs that perform search and rescue, detect drugs and bombs, hunt small and large game, pull sleds, guard property and herd livestock. But most of all, dogs are our friends and companions. They are social animals that flourish on the companionship of humans. Devoted to their owners, dogs provide countless hours of unconditional friendship, love and fun through a special bond with their owners.

Tips for Introducing Dogs and Having Dogs at Your Meeting

Having dogs at your meetings is a great way to learn as much as you can about your own dog as well as other dogs. But, if dogs and humans aren't introduced properly to each other and the environment in which the meeting is being held in, it can have a negative outcome for everyone, including the dogs, attending the meeting.

- When arriving at the meeting, have leaders come and greet the dog while the dog is still in the car. Have leaders do a social test with the dog.
- Insist that there is proof of rabies vaccination for every dog attending the meeting.
- Invite parents to stay at the meeting (at least the first meeting, to assist their child with their dog, especially if the dog is fairly large in size for the 4-H member to handle).
- Insist that all dogs must be on a leash.
- Ensure all activities with members and their dogs take place in a fully fenced-in area.

Discuss It!

What type of proof do you have with you to show that your dog has received its rabies vaccination?
What types of proof are there?

Look It Up!

Find out from your veterinarian what the cost of the rabies vaccination is, who can administer it and any other required information in order to meet the provincial laws.

History of Dogs

Dogs were the first animals domesticated by humans. History suggests that dogs became domesticated and used by humans 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. Although the history of domestication of the dog is not fully documented, one theory suggests that as humans moved from primary hunting to hunting and farming, young wolves moved into their settlements as scavengers. The farmers watched the wolves' behavior and instincts and saw characteristics that could help them hunt, protect people and property and herd livestock. From then on, people began taming and selectively breeding the wolves to serve their needs.

Look it up!

Check the library or the Internet to learn about the history of canine husbandry. Why do you think dogs were first willing to live with humans?

These early domesticated dogs evolved through selective breeding into different types of dogs with similar characteristics. These were eventually recognized as breeds. Today, there are approximately 400 breeds of dogs world-wide.

The Benefits of Having a Dog

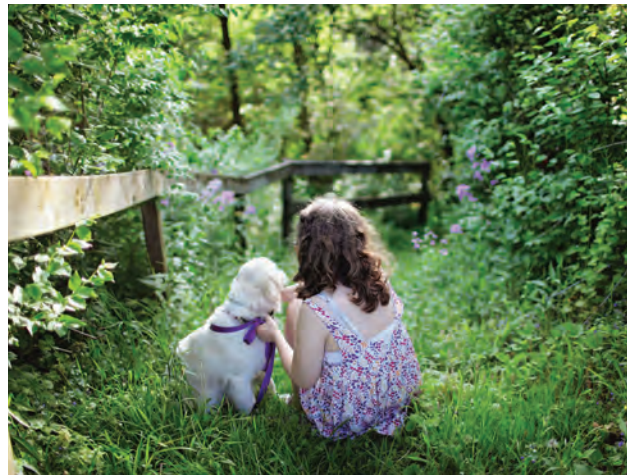
Whether you're a dog owner or volunteer, hanging out with our four-legged friends can do wonders for your wellbeing.

1. Improve heart health

Dogs don't just fill your heart. They can actually make it stronger. Studies show that having a canine companion is linked to lower blood pressure, reduced cholesterol and decreased triglyceride levels, which contribute to better overall cardiovascular health and fewer heart attacks. What's more, dog owners who do have heart attacks have better survival rates following the events.

2. Keep you fit and active

Health experts recommend that adults get about 2 hours and 30 minutes worth of moderate exercise per week. Dog owners are way more likely to hit that goal by being outside walking their dog. Dogs help people to be more active. In turn, dog walking helps us remain mobile into our 70's and 80's.



3. Help you lose weight

Research has repeatedly found that daily dog walks help you lose weight, since dogs force you into moderate physical activity for 10, 20, and even 30 minutes at a time.

4. Improve your social life

Researchers have found that about 40 percent of people walking dogs make friends more easily, possibly because dog owners speak with other dog owners during walks. People tend to open up and want to share stories about their favorite friend.



5. Reduce stress

There's a reason therapy dogs are so effective. Spending just a few minutes with a pet can lower anxiety and blood pressure, and increase levels of serotonin and dopamine, two neurochemicals that play big roles in calm and wellbeing. People performing stressful tasks do better when there's a dog around and studies show dogs ease tension in the workplace.

6. Add meaning and purpose

As we grow older—especially after we retire—it can be difficult to find structure and meaning day in and day out. Dogs take care of that. Even if you're not feeling well emotionally or physically, your dog cares about you but they also still want you to feed them and take them for a walk.

Dogs also help prevent loneliness and isolation which is key in staving off cognitive decline and disease. Dogs give us a reason to really get up in the morning.

7. Stave off depression

Therapy dogs - dogs that might live with you full-time or dogs that you see periodically - have been shown to be effective in easing depression for a variety of people, old and young, sick and healthy.

8. Prevent allergies in children

Back in the olden days (the '90s), experts believed having a dog in your home contributed to

children’s allergies. Fortunately, recent research shows just the opposite is true. Dogs and cats actually lower a child’s chance of becoming allergic to pets—up to 33 percent, according to a 2004 study in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

9. Reduce doctor visits

For someone over 65 and who owns a pet, chances are they seek medical help about 30 percent less often than people who don’t have a pet. And while cats, birds and other animals were helpful, owners of dogs, in particular, don’t need to see the doctor as often.

10. Battle disease and injury

It’s believed that owning a dog can help detect, treat and manage a variety of illnesses and debilitations. A few examples include some dogs who have been trained to sniff out skin, kidney, bladder, and prostate cancer, among others.

Service dogs are known to benefit people with everything from traumatic brain injury to autism to rheumatoid arthritis, increasing mobility and promoting independence. Alzheimer’s patients are soothed by dogs, whose companionship also seems to alleviate emotional flare-ups and aggression.

When Dogs Can Create a Problem

Pets can be the cause of falls for humans. The majority of those falls are caused by dogs. Falls can be disastrous health events for people who are older, frequently leading to serious injury (broken hips, etc.) and long hospital stays. If you’re looking to adopt, consider mobility issues and make sure to take steps to reduce the dangers of falls.

Excerpts from: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-10-health-benefits-of-dogs-and-one-health-risk_n_57dad1b8e4b04a1497b2f5a0

Reach Out!

Invite someone to your meeting that has a therapy dog that they take for visits to hospitals and nursing homes. Find out what makes their dog a great dog for visiting people and what training their dog needed before they could do this.

Research It!

Find a story in the media where a dog helped its owner in a difficult situation.

Judge It!

Provide pictures of four different dogs and have members judge the pictures based on which dog would be most appropriate for their current circumstances (e.g. living at home in the country, in an apartment in town, etc.) and tell the group why they placed the dogs in the order that they chose. Then tell members they are basing their choices on getting a dog for someone who is elderly and living in town and ask them if their ranking of the dogs changes.

The Creed of the 4-H Canine Pet Owner

I will:

1. Provide comfortable and sufficient quarters for my dog(s)
2. Feed my dog(s) on time each day
3. Provide clean water at all times
4. Provide adequate exercise for my dog(s)
5. Keep my dog free from parasites
6. Strive to keep my dog(s) in good health
7. Learn as much as possible about the best methods of feeding and caring for dog(s)
8. Provide stimulation and social interaction for my dog(s)
9. Be kind to all animals
10. Always be a good sport in competition
11. Keep an accurate record of my projects
12. Complete my project and take part in all the activities of my 4-H club

Discuss It!

There are many ways to gather information but you have to make sure you are getting information from reliable sources. What do you feel are the best places for credible information about dogs? What sources of information should be avoided?

AT HOME ACTIVITY

If you could have any dog you wanted and cost wasn't a barrier, what breed of dog would you choose and why? Be prepared to tell the group at the next meeting which breed you chose and the reason(s) you chose that particular breed.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Pet Allergies

As discussed in the topic information in this meeting, having a cat(s) and/or a dog(s) in the home can reduce a child's chance of becoming allergic to pets. However, no matter what, some people will none the less be allergic to pets. Some breeds are hypo-allergenic, allowing people with allergies to have a pet. Research which breeds are hypo-allergenic and be prepared to share this information at the next meeting.

ACTIVITIES: 1
THE CREED OF THE 4-H CANINE PET OWNER

<p>DO</p>	<p>Time: 10 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Creed of the 4-H Canine Pet Owner (see below). <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have members review the Creed • Discuss the Creed and ask members to come up with at least one question they have about the Creed • Discuss what members need to do to live up to the commitments outlined in the Creed • Once members agree and have received answers to their questions about the Creed, have members sign the Creed
<p>REFLECT</p>	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow members to better understand their responsibility as a dog owner • To help ensure members accept responsibility for their pet
<p>APPLY</p>	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you capable and committed to being a good dog owner? • Do you have enough information to properly care for and protect your dog? What do you need to learn or research? • How will your dog be cared for when you're not around, or have other commitments?

THE CREED OF THE 4-H CANINE PET OWNER

I will:

1. Provide comfortable and sufficient living quarters for my dog(s)
2. Feed my dog(s) on time each day
3. Provide clean water at all times
4. Provide adequate exercise for my dog(s)
5. Keep my dog free from parasites
6. Strive to keep my dog(s) in good health
7. Learn as much as possible about the best methods of feeding and caring for dog(s)
8. Provide stimulation and social interaction for my dog(s)
9. Be kind to all animals
10. Always be a good sport in competition
11. Keep an accurate record of my projects
12. Complete my project and take part in all the activities of my 4-H club

I have read and will abide by this creed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ACTIVITIES: 2

DOG'S ARE FOR LIFE – THE LIFE OF THE DOG!

DO	<p>Time: 10 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to the Internet• Pen and paper <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members research the average lifespan of small, medium and large breed dogs using the Internet or by having a dog breeder, vet technician or veterinarian attend the meeting
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To create an understanding with members about the commitment of getting a pet• To allow members to realize the age a dog can live to
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How old are you now? How old will you be when the dog is considered a senior dog (when the dog is 5 to 8 years old)?• Are you committed to taking care of the dog for its entire life and the costs associated with owning your dog?• Will you still be in school when your dog is a senior? Do you anticipate you will have moved out of home by the time your dog is a senior? What plans do you have for someone to take care of the dog if you're not able to take the dog with you?

ACTIVITIES: 3

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOG?

Note: only do this activity if every member has a dog at home

DO

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Pen and paper
- Canine Information Form (found on the next page)

Instructions:

- Have members work in pairs
- Have members interview each other and ask questions about each other's dog
- If time permits, have members video each other as they do the interview
- Have members introduce their partner and tell a bit about their partner's dog OR show the videos of the interviews

Information members could look for might include:

- Dog breed, type, size
- Age
- Type of hair
- Temperament
- Member's relationship with dog
- Where the dog lives and spends time
- The dog's favourite things

REFLECT

Learning Outcomes:

- To allow members to get to know each other and their dogs better
- To create an understanding amongst members that everyone has different reasons for choosing the dog they have
- To allow members to practice their communication and presentation skills

APPLY:

Processing Prompts:

- Did you learn something about the partner you worked with that you didn't know before?

- Is there information about your dog that you didn't know?

Where will you go to find out this information?

- Did anyone's information about their dog surprise you?

- Did you learn something about a different breed that you didn't know before?

- Did you like doing the interview as a video? Why or why not?

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR DOG?

Name of Dog _____ Date of Birth _____

Gender (neutered or spayed?) _____

Purebred or Crossbred _____ Breed _____

Colour of Coat: _____

Coat Type: _____ Eye Colour: _____

Special Markings: _____

Date of purchase/adoption? _____

Where and who did you get your dog from? _____

Name, address and phone number of your dog's veterinarian:

Include a photo of your dog here. Include the dog's name and any other information not listed above.

ACTIVITIES: 4

CARING FOR MY PET

Note: this activity could be completed for any animal, not just dogs

DO	<p>Time: 15 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-Assessment Worksheet (found on the next page)• Pen/Pencil <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members complete the self-assessment worksheet• Ask members to consider what they think they are doing well and what they need to improve upon• Once members have completed their self-assessment, discuss how they can collectively improve as dog owners• Checking back in part way through this project. Are members doing better?
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To allow members to personally reflect on their level of care for their dog• To help members identify areas for improvement• To create an understanding of dog ownership responsibilities• To understand their role in dog ownership
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can anyone be a good dog owner?• What makes you a good dog owner?• How can you be a better dog owner?

Caring for My Animal

This is a self-assessment tool. Check the things that you are already doing to care for your dog. What are you doing well? What would you like to improve?

I'm already doing well	I want to improve	Care
		Provide adequate housing.
		Feed my dog daily and on a regular schedule.
		Feed a balanced diet.
		Provide access to good quality water at all times.
		Control internal and external parasites.
		Any invasive procedures are performed when dogs are as young as possible.
		Train dog to lead or be handled at a young age.
		Have a planned health program to prevent disease.
		Observe dog daily and get treatment if needed.
		Aware of the signs that my dog is in pain or is suffering.
		Keep feed and treatment records.
		Be aware of dog's comfort (physical and mental) at all times.
		Take the time to understand the behavioral needs (e.g. companionship) of my dog.

CANINE BREEDS



SECTION 2A – BREEDS OF DOGS

Setting Objectives

Have you ever wondered why there are so many dog breeds? The dog evolved from the gray wolf into over 400 breeds. Each breed was developed by humans selecting dogs with similar desirable characteristics for breeding. Eventually, a breed that was distinct from the other dogs emerged. This meeting takes a look at the various breeds recognized in Canada.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To learn about purebred dogs
- To learn about the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and its purpose
- To be able to identify dog breeds recognized in Canada
- To understand the difference between various CKC groupings of dog breeds
- To understand the difference between purebred and mixed-breed dogs

Roll Calls

- If you could have any breed of dog, which breed would you choose and why?
- Name one reason it's important to understand the characteristics and personality of each breed of dog?
- If you own a dog already, why did you (and/or your family) choose that breed of dog?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 1 hours 40 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Purebred Dogs Canadian Kennel Club Mixed-Breed Dogs <u>Activities</u> Aptly Named Applying CKC Standards	60 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Breed Standards	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

Topic Information

One of the most exciting steps in selecting a new puppy is choosing a breed. Each breed has their own unique natural instincts and characteristics. Do some research and narrow your choices down to two or three breeds suited to your lifestyle and then get as much information as you can before making a final choice.

Most importantly, you will need to experience your selected breed first-hand. You can visit one of the many CKC events held throughout Canada each year to experience the dogs without any commitment. While there, chat with the owners and breeders. People are generally willing to provide information and give you the firsthand experience you may need.

Purebred Dogs

Purebred dogs share specific features to a breed standard and often have special skills and traits that have been developed in them. Purebred dogs are not necessarily superior to a dog of mixed breeds. People who select a purebred dog will be permitted to enter breed shows and specific obedience or field trials, use a male for stud service or raise a litter of purebred puppies.

People who select a purebred dog should study the pedigree issued by a recognized authority for purebred dogs. Many breeds look much the same when they are puppies but the looks may be of no help in predicting the dog's appearance at maturity. Having a pedigree ensures that the purebred dog you are purchasing is actually purebred and not a mixed breed.

The Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI), sometimes known as the World Canine Organization, is the world governing body of dog breeds. This organization recognizes about 340 dog breeds.

Canadian Kennel Club

A recognized authority for purebred dogs and an advocate for all dogs, the Canadian Kennel Club (also known as the CKC) is the primary registry body for purebred dogs in Canada and currently recognizes 175 breeds. The CKC is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to encouraging, guiding, and advancing the interests of purebred dogs and their responsible owners and breeders in Canada and promoting the knowledge and understanding of the benefits which all dogs can bring to Canadian society.

The CKC is incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act of Canada, a federal statute governed by the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture. The CKC has approximately 20,000 individual members and over 700 breed clubs across Canada. The CKC registers purebred dogs, regulates dog shows and performance events and speaks out on major issues concerning dog ownership and the health & welfare of dogs across Canada.

The values of the Canadian Kennel Club include:

- A dedication to, and love of, purebred dogs with a commitment to the on-going improvement in the health and well being of all dogs.
- A belief in the value of dogs as an integral part of our lives, our society and the contributions dogs brings to our humanity.
- A commitment to promote and advance the sport of purebred dogs and to inform, educate and expand public awareness as to the vast array of activities and opportunities for purebred dog enthusiasts.
- A commitment to inform, educate and promote responsible ownership and responsible breeding practices undertaken for the preservation of breed characteristics while producing healthy well-socialized dogs, giving consideration to health issues and temperament and behaviour.

Talk About It!

Brainstorm reasons why you think humans domesticated dogs. Check out the library or online to learn about the history of canine husbandry. Why do you think dogs were first willing to live with humans?

- A commitment to protect and enhance the interests of our breeders, members, associated clubs and organizations and to deal with them with integrity, openness, honesty and compassion.
- A dedication to high standards in upholding the integrity of our registry.
- A commitment to uphold high standards of governance and management in the administration and operations of the Canadian Kennel Club.

Source: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/en>

There are currently seven dog groups recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club. Dogs are placed into these groups according to their purpose. The groups are sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, non-sporting and herding. Knowing the purpose behind the development of a breed gives you an idea of the breed’s characteristics and personality traits.

Group One – Sporting Dogs

Sporting dogs include pointers, setters, retrievers and spaniels. Pointers and setters are hunters that cover the ground with great speed, freezing like statues at the scent of game birds. Retrievers are excellent swimmers and excel at retrieving game in the field or in the water. Spaniels are great at flushing out game from thick brush. Dogs in this group are also sometimes referred to as gun dogs or bird dogs.

Most dogs in the Sporting Group are medium in size with the American Cocker Spaniel being the smallest of the group and the English, Irish and Gordon Setters the largest. The Golden Retriever and Labrador Retriever are two of the most popular choices for obedience competition, attesting to the Sporting group’s willingness to please and desire to work.

Reach Out!

Invite a local person who has a purebred dog(s) and is a member of the Canadian Kennel Club to your meeting. Have them speak about why they are a member of the CKC and any activities they do within the Club.



Golden Retrievers

Photo Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed.aspx?breedCode=RTG>

Barbet	Setter (Gordon)
Braque d'Auvergne	Setter (Irish)
Braque Francais (Gascogne)	Setter (Irish Red & White)
Braque Francais (Pyrenees)	Spaniel (American Cocker)
Griffon (Wire-Haired Pointing)	Spaniel (American Water)
Kleiner Munsterlander	Spaniel (Blue Picardy)
Lagotto Romagnolo	Spaniel (Brittany)
Pointer	Spaniel (Clumber)
Pointer (German Long-Haired)	Spaniel (English Cocker)
Pointer (German Short-Haired)	Spaniel (English Springer)
Pointer (German Wire-Haired)	Spaniel (Field)
Pudelpointer	Spaniel (French)
Retriever (Chesapeake Bay)	Spaniel (Irish Water)
Retriever (Curly-Coated)	Spaniel (Sussex)
Retriever (Flat-Coated)	Spaniel (Welsh Springer)
Retriever (Golden)	Spinone Italiano
Retriever (Labrador)	Vizsla (Smooth)
Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling)	Vizsla (Wire-Haired)
Setter (English)	Weimaraner

Group Two – Hounds

The Hound breeds are a diverse group with the common trait of being used for hunting. Members of this group are known for their endurance, keen vision and/or scent detection and speed.

Hound breeds are split into two groups – those long-limbed hounds that hunt by sight (referred to as sighthounds or, occasionally, gazehounds) and those that hunt by scent, not surprisingly called scent hounds. Their quarry is the furred and four-footed variety.

Whether sighthound or scent hound, these dogs are bred to pursue game. The sighthounds do it in bursts of top speed, running down everything from gazelle to rabbits, always keeping them in their sight. Scent hounds follow the scent trail, moving at a slower speed but working relentlessly and with determination.

Instinct often means more to hounds than pleasing their owners. Give them something to pursue and they may conveniently forget all the obedience commands they've ever been taught. The thrill of the chase is in their blood. Patient perseverance pays off when training and working with hounds.



Beagle

Photo Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed.aspx?breedCode=BAL>

Afghan Hound	Foxhound (American)
Azawakh	Foxhound (English)
Basenji	Greyhound
Basset Hound	Harrier
Beagle	Ibizan Hound
Bloodhound	Irish Wolfhound
Borzo	Norrbottenspets
Coonhound (Black & Tan)	Norwegian Elkhound
Dachshund (Miniature Long-Haired)	Norwegian Lundehund
Dachshund (Miniature Smooth)	Otterhound
Dachshund (Miniature Wire-Haired)	Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
Dachshund (Standard Long-Haired)	Pharoah Hound
Dachshund (Standard Smooth)	Rhodesian Ridgeback
Dachshund (Standard Wire-Haired)	Saluki
Deerhound (Scottish)	Shikoku
Drever	Whippet
Finnish Spitz	

Group Three – Working Dogs

The working breeds were developed for serving humans by pulling sleds and carts, performing water rescues and guarding property, including livestock. Dogs in this group are large and strong and make reliable, loyal companions.

The energy level of most Working breeds depends on the task at hand. Guardian dogs may patrol or simply observe until called upon to defend. Then they surge into action. Sled dogs keep their enthusiasm in check until they're in harness and then they're keen to hit the trail.

Prized for their long association with humans, their loyalty and willingness to work, these breeds usually take well to training. These dogs tend to be very serious about their work.



Bernese Mountain Dog

Photo credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed>.

Akita	Entlebucher Mountain Dog	Neapolitan Mastiff
Alaskan Malamute	Eurasier	Newfoundland
Anatolian Shepherd Dog	Great Dane	Portuguese Water Dog
Bernese Mountain Dog	Great Pyrenees	Rottweiler
Black Russian Terrier	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	Saint Bernard
Boxer	Greenland Dog	Samoyed
Bullmastiff	Hovawart	Schnauzer (Giant)
Canaan Dog	Karelian Bear Dog	Schnauzer (Standard)
Canadian Eskimo Dog	Komondor	Siberian Husky
Cane Corse	Kuvasz	Tibetan Mastiff
Doberman Pinscher	Leonberger	
Dogue De Bordeaux	Mastiff	

Group Four – Terrier Dogs

Terrier breeds are alert, bold dogs named after the Latin word terra, meaning earth. This name is fitting as the terrier was developed to dig out small animals chased underground by tracking hounds. Many terriers are small and can easily burrow through tunnels. These feisty, energetic dogs are ferocious fighters once they corner their prey. Feisty and ready to roar, the average terrier is game for any sort of action. Most of the breeds are either smooth or wire-coated such as the two Fox Terriers, but the Skye sports a long, flowing coat, the Kerry Blue wears a dense wavy jacket and the Soft-coated Wheaten has a soft and silky coat.

The trick to training terriers is to keep them active, challenged and entertained. The urge to dig is ingrained in most of the terrier breeds.



Parson Russell Terrier

Photo Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed>.

Airedale Terrier	Lakeland Terrier
American Staffordshire Terrier	Manchester Terrier
Australian Terrier	Norfolk Terrier
Bedlington Terrier	Norwich Terrier
Border Terrier	Parson Russell Terrier
Bull Terrier	Rat Terrier
Bull Terrier (Miniature)	Russell Terrier
Cairn Terrier	Schnauzer (Miniature)
Cesky Terrier	Scottish Terrier
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	Sealyham Terrier
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	Skye Terrier
Fox Terrier (Wire)	Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier
Glen of Imaal Terrier	Staffordshire Bull Terrier
Irish Terrier	Welsh Terrier
Kerry Blue Terrier	West Highland White Terrier

Group Five – Toy Dogs

The smallest of all of the breeds, toy breeds were developed to provide pleasure and companionship to their owners. Many of these breeds were prized by royalty in ancient times. Dogs in this group are typically long-lived and spirited.

Perky, playful and cuddlesome, most of the Toy breeds are lively, upbeat characters. A few, such as the Pekingese, can be more sedate. Primarily house pets, toy breeds tend to live very closely with their owners and most are eager to please them.



Chihuahua (Long Coat)

Photo Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Choosing-a-Dog/Choosing-a-Breed/Toy-Dogs>

Affenpinscher	Miniature Pinscher
American Eskimo Dog (Toy)	Papillon
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	Pekingese
Chihuahua (Long & Short Coat)	Pomeranian
Chinese Crested Dog	Poodle (Toy)
Coton de Tulear	Pug
English Toy Spaniel	Russkiy Toy
Griffon (Brussels)	Silky Terrier
Havanese	Toy FoxTerrier
Italian Greyhound	Toy Manchester Terrier
Japanese Chin	Xoloitzcuintli (Toy)
Maltese	Yorkshire Terrier

Group Six – Non-Sporting Dogs

When a breed didn't quite seem to fit in any other group, it became part of the Non-Sporting group.

Non-sporting breeds vary a great deal in their historical and physical characteristics as well as in their disposition and size. Although non-sporting dogs were developed to perform certain purposes, today they serve mainly as pets.



Chow Chow

Photo Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed.aspx?breedCode=COC>

American Eskimo Dog (Miniature & Standard)	Keeshond
Bichon Frise	Lhasa Apso
Boston Terrier	Lowchen
Bulldog	Poodle (Miniature & Standard)
Chinese Shar-Pei	Schipperke
Chow Chow	Shiba Inu
Dalmation	Shih Tzu
French Bulldog	Tibetan Spaniel
German Pinscher	Tibetan Terrier
Japanese Spitz	Xoloitzcuintli (Miniature & Standard)

Group Seven - Herding Dogs

The breeds found in the Herding Group were developed to assist humans in the herding of various species of livestock. Dogs in this group are typically quite intelligent and highly trainable. Bred to control a variety of livestock, herding dogs have been developed to be well suited for their special functions. Working close to the ground, Corgis and Swedish Vallhunds work as “heelers,” nipping at the heels of cattle to move them. Drovers, such as the Old English Sheepdog and Bouvier des Flandres, were employed to drive livestock to market. Briards and German Shepherd Dogs patrolled the boundaries of pastures to keep their charges contained, while breeds such as the Puli and Bearded Collie went in search of grazing sheep to round them up and bring them in.

Problem-solving, independent thinking and the ability to instantly obey orders has resulted in many of the herding breeds being among the most trainable of all canines. The popular Shetland Sheepdog always ranks high in obedience competition and the German Shepherd’s versatility has seen it used as a guide for the blind or an assistance dog for the handicapped, and in drug and explosives detection, search and rescue and police work.

Intelligence, the desire to please, an action-oriented nature and a knack for rounding up anything from cattle to kids are trademarks of the herding breeds. Always on the move in pursuit of their duties, herding dogs are virtually tireless canines that crave action.



Border Collie

Photo Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed.aspx?breedCode=BRC>

Australian Cattle Dog	Lancashire Heeler
Australian Kelpie	Miniature American Shepherd
Australian Shepherd	Mudi
Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog	Norwegian Buhund
Bearded Collie	Old English Sheepdog
Beauceron	Polish Lowland Sheepdog
Belgian Shepherd Dog	Portuguese Sheepdog
Berger Picard	Puli
Berger des Pyrenees	Schapendoes
Border Collie	Shetland Sheepdog
Bouvier des Flandres	Spanish Water Dog
Briard	Swedish Vallhund
Collie (Rough & Smooth)	Tatra Sheepdog
Finnish Lapphund	Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)
German Shepherd Dog	Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)
Iceland Sheepdog	

Check It Out!

Is there a particular breed you are interested in? Breed standards can be found for any of the above breeds on the Canadian Kennel Club's website at <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Events/CKC-Breed-Standards#> The CKC website also has pictures of every recognized dog breed in Canada.

Look It Up!

Check out the "Dogs 101" series on YouTube. Watch the videos for dogs in your group. Does the information outlined in the videos match the experiences members have had with their dog?

Look It Up!

Some dog breeds in the world are quite rare. What are the 10 most rare breeds in the world? Do you know of anyone who has any of these breeds of dogs?

Mixed Breed Dogs

A mixed-breed dog (sometimes called a mutt, crossbreed, mongrel, tyke, cur, or random-bred dog) is a dog that is a mixture of two or more breeds. In Canada, the term mixed-breed is used most often.

Mixed-breed dogs can be divided roughly into three types:

- **Crossbred dogs**, which are mixtures of two known breeds. Some cross-breeds are bred for certain positive traits, such as a Golden Doodle being a Golden Retriever looking dog, that shares the trait of not shedding with Poodles. Other crossbreeds occur when breeders are hoping to create new breeds to add and reinforce characteristics from one breed into another breed. Most crossbreedings, however, occur accidentally.
- **Mixes among more than two breeds**, such as when a crossbred dog mates with a purebred dog or with another crossbreed.
- The generic **Canis lupus familiaris**, seen in feral or pariah dog populations, where mixed breeding has occurred over many generations. These dogs tend to be yellow to light brown and of medium height and weight. This “genetic average” might also represent the appearance of the modern dog’s ancestor.

The mature appearance and behaviour of purebred puppies is more predictable than that of mixed breeds, including cross-breeds. With purebred dogs, the genetic variations are well documented and a breeder has a fair estimation of what type of offspring a given pair will produce.

There is usually an abundant supply of mixed-breed dogs wanting owners, available at negligible prices, while pedigreed dogs can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars and reputable breeders can be hard to find. Local animal shelters adopt out dogs of both pure and mixed ancestry, emphasizing each dog’s personality and suitability as a companion for each potential owner’s lifestyle rather than the purity of each dog’s ancestry.

Discuss It!

Why is the Canadian Kennel Club an important Canadian institution?

Discuss It!

Do you think purebred dogs or mixed breed dogs are healthier? According to a study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medication Association, after analyzing more than 90,000 health records, no difference was found among purebred and crossbred dogs when it came to the occurrence of 13 heritable conditions.

Experience it!

Attend a dog show in your area. Try to identify all of the breeds participating in the show. Did they show in the groupings set out by CKC or were the classes set up differently?

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Choose a breed listed in this meeting that you have never heard of. Look up what the breed standard is for this particular breed and create a short summary in your Record Book. Decide if this would be a breed you would like to have. Be prepared to present your findings at the next meeting.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Certain breeds can be considered aggressive and dangerous. Find out if there are any breeds recognized in Canada that have been banned from people owning them. If you find any banned breeds, find out why the decision was made to ban this breed(s). Be prepared to share your findings at the next meeting.

ACTIVITY #1

APTLY NAMED

DO	<p>Time: 15 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper and writing utensil <p>• Have members sit together in a circle. Challenge them to come up with an appropriate name for a certain breed of dog. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smelly the Beagle (because Beagles track and sniff)• Paddle the Retriever (because Retrievers enjoy swimming)• Wooly the Collie (because Collies are great herders of animals like sheep) <p>o keep adding to the list!</p> <p>Note: all members can get involved. They can ask questions and help one another if they run out of ideas</p>
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to use their imagination to communicate together and learn more about dog breed characteristics while using some of the terms in the canine project.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many dog breeds were included?• How many different dog characteristics were you able to identify throughout the game?• Were there certain breeds that were hard to think of a name for? Why?

ACTIVITY #2

APPLYING CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB (CKC) STANDARDS

DO	<p>Time: 2 hours</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to the Internet, dog encyclopedias and/or books about specific dog breeds <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members use resource materials to chart the characteristics of their dog breed. If a member's dog is a mixed breed, have them focus on one or two main breeds in the mix. If a member doesn't have a dog, have them choose a breed they would like to own and then chart those characteristics.• Using the CKC breed standards, have members apply a scorecard for each characteristic of their dog to determine how close their dog's conformation is to the breed standard.
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to chart their dog's lineage and understand breed standards. Members will challenge their observation and judging skills.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did members have enough information to judge a particular breed of dog?• How easy or hard was it to compare standards that you researched for your dog?• How did you use both sign and touch to determine the characteristics of your dog?• How does knowing the ideal characteristics of your dog give you a better idea of determining your dog's health?• How much do you know about your dog's heritage? Does your dog have registration papers? Do you know what those documents look like?• Is it important that dogs meet breed standards? Why or why not?

SECTION 2B – COMMUNICATION AND BEHAVIOUR

Setting Objectives

Looking after a dog requires knowledge of how a dog communicates and how that translates into certain behaviours exhibited by dogs. Whether or not someone owns a dog, it's important to understand how to act safely around all dogs, whether at home or when meeting dogs you've never met before. Understanding a dog's behaviour creates a positive relationship between humans and animals.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To be able to identify how a dog communicates
- To learn how to communicate with a dog
- To be able to identify ways to change a dog's behaviour and reactions
- To learn how to be safe around dogs
- To learn about preventative measures to try and avoid dog bites
- To understand the importance of the Canine Good Neighbour Program

Roll Calls

- Have you seen a dog behaving badly? What was it doing?
- What is one thing you can do to try and prevent being bitten by a dog?
- Name one sign that an animal is scared or frightened.

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> The Language of Dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocalization • Visual Communication • Scents and Smells • Stress • Calming Signals Communicating with Your Dog Discipline Dog Bite Prevention Canine Good Neighbour Program <u>Activities</u> Dog Day Meet and Greet Stand Like a Tree	80 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Dog Behaviour While Out for a Walk	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Excerpts and behaviour illustrations courtesy of Ohio State University Extension

The Language of Dogs

Dog behaviours are shaped by the fact that they are social, domesticated animals. Social animals often live and travel in packs, obey pack laws, which include helping each other and follow a leader. The pack is the dog's family. Pack members have roles that are identified as dominate or submissive. The dog who most often initiates pack activity is the pack leader or alpha dog and is dominate. By watching the interactions of dogs, you can learn to identify different personalities and ways of communication, and the dog's body language that accompanies them. Knowing a dog's body language helps us recognize the possible behaviour or response the dog might have to a certain situation or environment.

We serve in a leadership role by communicating with our dogs in a reliable and trustworthy manner. Use positive reinforcement to reward correct responses. Learn to distract dogs when they display inappropriate behaviour and to use proper handling techniques when in appropriate behaviour becomes a safety issue. There are ways to control and discipline your dog without resorting to abusive measures. Your dog can learn to play by your rules.

Socialization involves the dog's ability to positively interact with people, animals and surroundings. Puppies develop their primary social attachments between about six and ten weeks of age. It is important that puppies bond with humans during this time. During the first twelve to sixteen weeks of life, socialization, or lack of it, has the most impact on shaping a dog's temperament and behaviour.

Socialization includes physical, emotional and mental stimulation. Dogs that are poorly socialized do not get along with other animals or strange humans. They may develop behavioural problems such as self-mutilation, scratching, chewing, biting, destroying things, obsessive barking, tail chasing and health problems. They may show aggression, avoidance or fear behaviours.

Dogs have a complex system for communicating. They communicate through vocalizations, visual communications (body postures), smells and scents and direct contact. Dogs display various behaviours when they communicate with people, other dogs and other animals. A dog does not express all of these behaviours in each situation. With one change in a signal, such as their tail up or down, the dog's intent may be totally different. Always observe the complete picture with the dog's environment when interpreting these behaviours. Variations between individual dogs, as well as between breeds must be considered when interpreting behaviours.

Vocalization

Dogs communicate through vocalization. A dog's bark has a variety of meanings depending on the situation. Dogs bark to convey a greeting, to announce a visitor, to solicit play, to threaten, while tracking or hunting and for defense. Think of all of the situations that have caused your dog to bark. Dogs growl to display aggression, to reinforce dominance and even just to play. They howl as a form of group vocalization, to seek companionship or in response to high pitched noises, like sirens. Submissive, frightened or stressed dogs may whine or whimper. Dogs may groan or grunt when enjoying petting. Dogs may yelp if in pain or if suddenly frightened. Sometimes, high pitched vocalizations are used in greetings, during play and when acting submissive. Lower tones are used to threaten.



Discuss It!

The last time your dog barked, why did it bark? What did you do and did you try to stop your dog from barking?

Visual Communication

A dog communicates visually using facial expressions and by positioning his body, ears and tail. Typically, a submissive or fearful dog tries to make him or herself appear smaller by lying down, crouching or hunching over. They make little or no eye contact and vocalizes in a high-pitched tone. On the other hand, an aggressive dog stands forward on their front feet, hackles raised, making themselves look as large as possible. Their body is tense, they vocalize in a low-pitched tone or growl and use a direct, fixed stare.

The following are descriptions and illustrations of various body postures of dogs. Possible vocalizations the dog might make are also listed. Remember to look at the entire dog and surrounding environment before determining what they are trying to communicate. Additionally, the signs indicating a posture may vary depending on breed, health and condition and intensity of play, submission and dominance.

Relaxed Posture



A relaxed dog displays a natural body posture, also called a baseline posture. Relaxed dogs aren't worked or threatened by what is going on in their immediate surroundings. They are content and reasonably happy. Knowing what a dog looks and acts like when they display this posture serves as a guide for determining their other behaviours. Signs of a relaxed dog include:

- Eyes – relaxed and slowly blinking
- Ears – pointed upwards but not forward or the ears are relaxed slightly down and back
- Mouth – loose, corners relaxed, might be slightly open, tongue may be slightly visible or hanging over lower teeth
- Muscle tone – soft
- Body – weight evenly distributed on all four feet
- Tail – down and even, may slowly wag in relaxed, sweeping movement

Alert Posture



An alert dog is stimulated by something interesting in their environment. They are standing at attention, ready to react depending on what happens next. Signs of an alert dog include:

- Eyes – open wide, alert eye contact (however, this might signal aggression from

a strange dog)

- Ears – pointed and forward, may move back and forth
- Mouth – closed
- Muscle tone – firm
- Body – stands tall on toes, leans body slightly forward
- Tail – carried horizontally, pointing away from dog, not stiff or bristled

Play Bow



The play bow invites others to play. Dogs also may use a play bow to communicate that any tough behaviour was not intended to be threatening. Dogs may also assume this posture if they have done something wrong, to let you know they meant no harm and that they really just wanted to play. Signs of play bow include:

- Eyes – dog initiating play makes direct eye contact
- Ears – pointed, may move back and forth
- Mouth – lips pulled back, mouth open, tongue visible, slight grin
- Body – front end lowered, forepaws bent and extended, hind end up
- Tail – carried up, may give sweeping wags
- Vocalization – may stutter bark or give high-pitched short barks

Active Submission



A dog displaying active submission behaviours is offering signs of submission to a dominant dog or person to avoid any additional threats or confrontations. This dog is a bit fearful and hopes the dominant individual will either retreat or show signs of friendliness. Signs of active submission include:

- Eyes – indirect and brief eye contact, may blink
- Ears – laid back
- Mouth – corners drawn back and up (submissive grin), slightly open, licks at mouth or face of dominant dog or licks at air, may make nudging movement without touching dominant dog
- Face – skin on forehead and nose unwrinkled and smooth
- Body – lowered, cowering, hind end low
- Tail – carried down, wags slightly, small swings
- Vocalization – may whimper or whine
- Other – may leave sweaty paw prints

Passive Submission



A completely submissive dog is very afraid of a confrontation. They are signaling to the dominant individual absolute surrender assuring that they are of no threat. Some dogs may show complete submission, exposing their groin region as a friendly gesture conceding to their owners or their animal friends. Signs of passive submission include:

- Eyes – narrowed, looks away
- Ears – flattened back
- Mouth – closed, corners down back and up (submissive grin)
- Face – skin on forehead and nose is smooth
- Body – rolls onto back exposing underbelly, uppermost hind leg is raised to expose groin area, can expose groin area in sitting or lying position, exposes throat
- Tail – tucked between legs, may slightly wag
- Other – remains completely still if touched, may urinate

Offensive Threat



This is a very threatening posture. The dog is communicating confidence and dominance if confronted. Dogs in this posture are preparing to attack and, if pressed, will bite and fight. An offensive threatening dog is ready to make the first move. Signs of offensive threat include:

- Eyes – direct eye contact, fixed stare, large round dilated pupils
- Ears – forward, lifted as high as possible
- Mouth – corners and lips pushed forward (snarl), may curl upper lip exposing some teeth with mouth mostly closed, may curl upper lip showing teeth to reveal incisors and canine teeth with mouth partly open, may curl upper lip exposing teeth and gums
- Face – nose slightly or very wrinkled
- Body – stands as tall as possible, leaning stiffly forward on toes, putting weight forward on frame, neck arched, hairs on neck and back raised, may push with shoulder or hip
- Tail – carried high and stiff, hair bristled down tail or just at tip, may have sharp bend in tail or near tip, may wag tail with short, fast wags
- Vocalization – may warn with bark or low-pitched growl, may snap or bite
- Other – may walk stiff-legged and stalk

Defensive Threat



Be very concerned about dogs in defensive threat posture. These dogs are showing signs of fear or submission and aggression. Dogs displaying this behaviour are afraid and may attack if pushed. This is the posture assumed by fear-biters, dogs that bite out of fear. People often read these dogs wrong, thinking they are harmless because most of their facial expressions show signs of submission. They do not look beyond the facial expression to the rest of the dog's posture to see what they are really communicating. This is the most dangerous body posture of dogs. Signs of defensive threat include:

- Eyes – direct eye contact, fixed state
- Ears – flattened back against head
- Mouth – corners of mouth drawn back, lips slightly curled (similar to submissive grin), may slightly expose teeth
- Face – nose wrinkled
- Body – weight shifts to hind feet, body lowered, crouching position, hairs on neck and back raised (called piloerection)
- Tail – tucked, may slightly wag
- Vocalization – growls, raises and lowers pitch

Smells and Scents

A dog's sense of smell is better developed than in any other domestic species. They rely on scent to recognize other dogs, other species of animals, gender and reproductive cycles. Dogs emit scents in their urine, feces and anal sac secretions. Dogs urinate to mark their territory or to mark over another dog's scent. Individual scents are found in a dog's feces and anal sac secretions which are excreted on feces during defecation. A frightened dog may also excrete anal sac contents without defecating. A female dog in estrus excretes pheromones in her urine that attract male dogs from kilometres away.

Stress



Stress is the body's reaction to changes in the environment. Stress can be the effect of physical, physiological or emotional factors that cause a change in the animal's stable or adaptive state. Animals, like humans, actually need stress in their lives. Lack of emotional and physical stimuli can harm an animal's health and growth. However, when stress becomes overwhelming, it has a negative influence on the animal. This state of distress occurs when the animal is unable to adapt to an altered environment. Adaptive responses to short-term stressors usually do not have any long-term detrimental effects. Prolonged or excessive distress though may alter feeding and social behaviour as well as reproductive efficiency. Behavioural responses to stress include inappropriate chewing, self-mutilation, excessive activity, aggression, unexplained accidents in the house, fearfulness, barking, whining or excessive vocalizations.

What are some of the causes of stress in dogs? Each animal reacts differently to changes in their environment, just as each person reacts differently to the stresses in their life. Some people deal better with stress than others, as do some animals. It is essential for you to know your dog well enough to be aware of their stress signals and to avoid unhealthy levels of stress.

Dogs are aware of their owner's emotions, as well as the emotions of other people around them. They react to human stress as well as to their own. Their perception of a situation is usually more intense than ours. Therefore, you must be aware of your animals' stress levels at all times to ensure that their exposure to situations or environments is healthy.

An animal's behavioural tendencies also influence how they may act in different environments or situations. Dominant dogs may be aggressive or watchful around other pets. You must make sure they do not antagonize other dogs. Submissive and shy dogs are more anxious in new surroundings, making it harder for them to relax around strange pets and people.

Unfamiliar and disliked surroundings, such as a dog show or the veterinarian's office, can stress your dog. You must be able to recognize these signs of stress and monitor your dog for signs of increased stress. Below are several signs of stress in dogs. Dogs may display one or more of these signs in a given situation. They may show more signs as their stress levels increase or the signs may intensify. Many times, signs of stress and signs of fear are the same.

It is important to learn the signs of stress in a dog because when a dog is stressed, they aren't learning. Stress can also lead to aggression. If your dog is showing signs of stress, take a break and give your dog a chance to relax. Use that time to figure out what was causing the stress and do what you can to reduce it. The following are some signs of stress:

- Whining
- Excessive vocalizations
- Hairs raised along the back
- Dilated pupils
- Turning head away or avoiding eye contact
- Shaking
- Excessive shedding
- Excessive dandruff
- Sweaty paws
- Refusal to eat
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Hiding
- Distracted or restless
- Inappropriate urination or defecation

Share It!

Has there been a time or situation that caused your dog to be stressed? Tell the rest of the group what caused the stress and what you (or your family) did to help your dog.

Calming Signals

Animals may attempt to calm themselves and each other (as well as their human friends) in stressful situations. Dogs use calming signals (also called displacement behaviours) to maintain a healthy social hierarchy, to decrease a threat or to encourage an approach. They use calming signals at an early stage in a stressful situation in an attempt to prevent stress from leading to distress.

We can learn to detect calming signs by knowing what they are and by watching for them. Notice the next time your dog yawns. Are they yawning because they are tired or because they are stressed and trying to cope with that stress? You can yawn as a calming signal to your dog. The next time your dog becomes scared or stressed, start yawning and see if it helps him relax. Remember that learning stops when a dog reaches the threshold of distress.

Common Calming Signals

- Turning the head to the side, then either turning it right back or holding it to the side for some time
- Turning away – turning the side or back to someone
- Licking the nose or lips in a movement that may be very quick
- Freezing in place by stopping, standing, lying or sitting still
- Yawning
- Exaggerated slow movements such as walking slowly, movements may become so slow they are hardly noticed
- Splitting up dogs or people – when a dog physically moves between dogs or people. The dog goes between to split up and avoid any conflict if they perceive the closeness being tense
- Sitting down – either just sitting down or turning his back to you while sitting down
- Lying down – lying down with belly to the ground, not with belly up in a submissive posture
- Play position, standing still in the play bow, not moving
 - Sniffing – this can be a quick movement to the ground or floor and back up or the dog may keep their nose to the ground until the problem goes away
 - Wagging tail – this may not be a sign of your dog being happy. For example – if you have lost your temper, your dog may wag their tail to try to make you calm down and be nice again

Research It!

Dogs are used for helping to calm people in many different situations. Make a list of some of those situations and what kind of training a dog might need before being in any of those situations.

Communicating with Your Dog

Body Language

Your dog learns to interpret your facial expressions and body movements. Staring at your dog might tell it to come to you so when you tell your dog to stay, do not give them a direct stare as they may break the stay command. Staring at aggressive dogs may threaten them, causing them to attack. A submissive dog may look away from your stare to tell you they are not a threat.

If you make yourself appear large, raising your arms out and bending slightly over, you give a threatening appearance. Similarly, if you curl up on the floor you are acting submissive. Play with your dog by doing a play bow and they may do the same.

Tone of Voice

Besides body language, your tone of voice is also an important form of communication. In order to send clear messages to your dog, your body language and tone of voice need to match.

If you listen to puppies playing, there are lots of yips and yaps in a high pitch. This expresses fun and excitement. If you want to praise your dog effectively, make your voice high and happy. It is also a good way to perk up and encourage lethargic dogs.

Equally, when dogs express displeasure, they growl. If you need to correct your dog, remember to speak your words in a growling tone of voice.

A word of caution – often when people get upset, the pitch of their voice becomes higher. If you squeak at your dog, they will continue to do whatever they are doing. If you yell at your dog and do not get a change in behavior, stop and think about the tone of your voice.

When a dog is afraid of something, a common reaction is to reassure the dog that everything is all right. This is a time when tone of voice gets many dog owners in trouble. When they try to comfort their dog, their tone of voice comes out as a whine. Dogs whine when they are stressed and upset. So, the dog sees the person in charge as whining too. The dog thinks the situation must be really bad. This increases the dog's fear level even more. The best thing to do when a dog is insecure is to give them a command in a firm tone of voice. It gives the dog something other than their fear to focus on.

Experience It!

Working in pairs or a small group, take turns saying the following phrases, varying between saying them in an angry voice, happy voice or scared voice and varying between saying the phrases loudly and quietly. Discuss how certain phrases made members feel and if they felt comfortable or uneasy at any time during the activity. Feel free to add more phrases to the list.

Come here now!

Sit down!

Where are you going?

What are you doing?

Give that to me!

Discipline

Shaping Behaviour

You can minimize disciplining your dog by taking positive steps to shape their behaviour. Managing the dog's environment and carefully selecting your responses to the dog's actions will go a long way in setting up your dog for success.

Begin by managing the dog's environment. If you don't want your dog to chew on your shoes then make sure they can't get at any shoes. Be sure to provide and chews so the dog has something to do. Right from the start, you can help your dog become the good dog they want to be.

Secondly, keep in mind that any attention is a reward, even if it's you scolding them for bad behavior. Your dog wants to be with you at almost any cost and they are willing to put up with your anger and disappointment if it means they get your attention.

It takes practice but the best approach is to reward the behaviours you want the dog to repeat and ignore the behaviours you want them to stop. For more information, check out the sections on Puppy Care and Socialization and Beginning Training Techniques.

If You Have to Correct

Dogs use body language and tone of voice when disciplining a pack member. This starts at a very early age. If a puppy is being unruly, the mother may warn the puppy with a growl or stare. If this isn't effective, she might flatten him with her paw or shake him by the scruff of the neck.

These methods, with some adaptations, can be used when correcting your dog's behaviour. If your dog misbehaves, look him in the eye and reprimand him in a growling tone of voice. If the dog breaks eye contact with you, you've made your point and there is no need to discipline further. However, if the eye contact and growling scold are not enough, there are options that are effective without resorting to abuse.

A puppy that is old enough to adopt is too old to be shaken by the scruff of the neck. The shaking effect can be mimicked by grasping the collar on both sides of the dog's neck and lifting it high enough to bring the front paws off the ground while carefully and gently shaking him back and forth and scolding in a deep, firm tone of voice. DO NOT shake or jerk your dog too hard to hurt him.

If your dog is on a leash and lunging after another dog, they can be brought up short with a quick pop and release of the slip collar. This is a harsh correction and should only be used in situations where other methods are ineffective. Remember that it is a quick pop and release. Choking your dog is not as quick or effective and is harmful. The idea is to put a quick halt to the dangerous behavior, not to abuse your dog. This behaviour correction should only be done by someone that is experienced in working with dogs.

Research It!

Negative attention is still attention. Research what negative attention is and why your dog might seek this out.

Share It!

Ask members to describe the different ways each person in their family relates to their dog. Why is it important for everyone to follow the same rules for the dog?

Dog Bite Prevention

Responsible dog owners must make every effort to prevent their dogs from biting people. Dogs with histories of aggression should not be in a household with children. Properly socialize and train any dog that is entering a household. Use caution when introducing a dog into the home of an infant or toddlers. Infants or young children should never be left alone with any dog, not even the trusted family pet.

If your dog is not a breeding dog, spay or neuter your dog. Spaying and neutering often reduces aggressive tendencies. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered are less likely to bite than dogs that are left intact.

Make sure your dog is up-to-date on their rabies vaccination and on any other vaccinations recommended by your veterinarian. Follow a complete wellness program to ensure your dog is healthy.

Learn how to be safe around dogs as well as how to make sure your dog is safe when they are around other people. Teach other people, especially young children, what to do to avoid being bitten by a dog. Help them learn how to act responsibly around dogs. Knowing how to act around dogs can spare a child from a dog bite and save his or her life.

- Learn and teach others how to behave around dogs. People who know how to act around dogs are less likely to purposefully or accidentally tease or threaten dogs.

- Always walk your dog on a leash. This allows you to monitor your dog's behavior and remove them from potential serious situations.

- Do not play tug-of-war and attack games or wrestle with your dog. Playing roughly with dogs may teach them to be aggressive, scratch, bite or jump. They may not always understand the difference between play and real-life situations.



- Socialize your dog to friends, neighbours, children, other dogs, playgrounds and areas where there are all ages of people, dogs and lively activity. Exposure to children playing, other people and activities makes your dog accustomed to the unexpected.



- Never tie a dog in a yard that is not fenced and where children could approach the dog. A dog naturally protects his territory and children who run in front of them are teasing without even knowing it. The dog may feel threatened and attack.
- Do not scream, run or play rough with your friends around a dog. Screaming, hitting and rough play could excite a dog, causing them to demonstrate their dominance. This can lead to aggressive behavior. Running can trigger a chase response in the dog.
- Immediately report to an adult a stray dog or a dog displaying unusual behavior. Do not attract the dog's attention.
- Never approach a dog you don't know or a dog that is alone without its owner. If you do not know the dog's personality you do not know how he is going to react to you so stay away.
- Never approach a dog that is confined inside a car, behind a fence or tied to a chain. Dogs are protective of their territory and their property.

- Always ask permission before petting someone’s dog. This is common courtesy. The owner will tell you if it is okay to pet the dog.
- When first approaching a dog, do not allow him to sniff your open hand. Always offer the back of your closed fist for the dog to sniff. This protects your fingers in case the dog tries to nip.
- Do not pet a dog on the back of their head after letting them sniff the back of your hand. Pet the dog on his neck or chest first. The dog may interpret a pet on the head as a dominant motion.
- Never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, has puppies or is guarding something. Dogs naturally protect their food, owners and property.
- Never approach a loose dog, no matter how friendly he seems.
- Do not make eye contact with a strange dog or any dog showing dominant, aggressive or fearful behaviours. When you stare at a dog, you are showing your dominance and may threaten an already distressed or aggressive dog, causing it to attack.
- Always let your own dog see you and sniff you before you pet it. Never surprise your dog. Even your own dog might be frightened if startled.
- If approached by a dog, never scream or run. Screaming and/or running can excite the dog. Their prey instinct tells them to chase and catch something that is running away.
- If approached by a dog, stand like a tree. If a dog is running after you or approaches you, stop – don’t run! Stand like a tree with your feet together. Put your fists under your neck or at your waist and elbows into your chest. Do not make eye contact with the dog. Looking or staring into the dog’s eyes only make it exert its dominance. You are threatening the dog with that stare. Turn your eyes away and lower your head.



Image credit: Bowmanville veterinary Clinic <https://www.bowmanvilleveterinaryclinic.com/be-a-tree-program>

Reach Out!

The Be a Tree Program is a fun and interactive presentation for children that teaches them how to read dog body language and be safe around dogs. The program is administered by Doggone Safe (<https://www.doggonesafe.com/>), a non-profit organization dedicated to dog bite prevention through education and dog bite victim support. The Be a Tree program is available across North America and around the world. Find out if a veterinary clinic in your area offers this program and ask them to present at your meeting.

Check It Out!

Doggone Crazy, a website dedicated to helping children understand dogs better, has resources that can be downloaded and/or ordered at: <https://doggonecrazy.ca/>

Experience It!

Practice the proper position you should be in if you get knocked down by a dog so that you protect yourself.

- If knocked down by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still. Put your legs together, curl into a ball, put your face down and put your fists covering the back of your neck and your arms over your ears. Keep quiet and lie still until the dog goes away. Lying in this position protects your vital areas and can save your life.
- Block an attack with a backpack or jacket. If attacked by a dog, “feed” the dog your jacket, purse, backpack, bicycle or anything else that can keep the dog’s teeth away from you.
- Some people say a barking dog won’t bite but this is not necessarily true. Barking or growling can signal a possible attack. That is why it is very important to watch a dog’s body language for signs of aggression.

The Canadian Kennel Club has a booklet called *Children and Safety Around Dogs* that can be downloaded from their website. <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Raising-My-Dog/Responsible-Ownership>

Canine Good Neighbour Program

The Canine Good Neighbour Program, run by the Canadian Kennel Club, is a 12-step test, that when completed successfully, will ensure that your dog is accepted as a valued member of your community. Canine Good Neighbours can be counted on to present good manners at home, in public places and in the presence of other dogs.

The test is non-competitive and allows dog and handler to demonstrate confidence and control in 12 steps. It assesses the handler and dog's relationship, together with the handler's ability to control the dog. Dogs are evaluated on their ability to perform basic exercises as well as their ability to demonstrate good manners in everyday situations.



You and Your Dog Must Complete these 12 Steps

1. Accepting A Friendly Stranger
2. Politely Accepts Petting
3. Appearance and Grooming
4. Out For A Walk
5. Walking Through A Crowd
6. Sit/Down On Command and Stay In Place
7. Come When Called
8. Praise/Interaction
9. Reaction To A Passing Dog
10. Reaction To Distractions
11. Supervised Isolation
12. Walking Through A Door/Gate

The training program embraces both purebred and mixed-breed dogs and is fun, rewarding, and useful. It encourages owners to have a better and richer relationship with their dogs. The program also enhances community awareness of responsible dog ownership and the numerous benefits associated with dog ownership. A Participant Handbook for this program is available from the Canadian Kennel Club online or by ordering a hard copy.

Look It Up!

Discover how you can participate in the Canine Good Neighbour Program by finding out more on the CKC website at: <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Raising-My-Dog/Responsible-Ownership/Canine-Good-Neighbour-Program> Find out if there are any Canine Good Neighbour Tests taking place in your area and see if you are able to go and watch the testing. Or, if you think your dog is ready, try the test and see if you and your dog pass.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

When taking your dog for a walk, observe the various behaviours that your dog exhibits during the walk. When you get home, record which behaviours you saw and what triggered those behaviours in your dog. Was there anything you could have done differently on your walk so your dog behaved differently?

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Dog owners are responsible for the actions of their dog. Research what would happen if your dog bit someone if they entered your property. Find out if it would make any difference if your dog bit someone when you are out for a walk, at an event or anywhere else that isn't your home.

ACTIVITY: 1

DOG DAY MEET AND GREET

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">DO</p>	<p>Time: 30 Minutes</p> <p>Materials/Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your dog, a leash and a ball <p>Note: If a member doesn't own a dog, the member could practice with a leader's dog but only with the assistance of the leader as the member and dog won't be familiar with each other</p> <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize an outing for members to bring their dog to a park • Have members take their dogs, on a leash, into the park • Have the dogs play together and members will observe what kind of behaviours they see – depending on the group and experience level, perhaps only have two members/dogs at a time together <p>NOTE: Make sure the dogs coming to participate in this activity have been well socialized (as observed at the beginning of the project) and that members are able to handle their dog on a leash so they are always in control. It might be a good idea for younger members to have a parent or senior member assist them with this activity.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">REFLECT</p>	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify and understand the various methods of communication between dogs and humans and the associated behaviours that accompany this communication.</p> <p>To allow members to observe any differences in how different breeds of dogs communicate and behave.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">APPLY</p>	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <p>What types of communication did the dogs use?</p> <p>What types of behaviour did the dogs show?</p> <p>Was there a significant difference in the dogs? If yes, what caused this difference? Did the breed of dog make a difference?</p> <p>If needed, did you do anything to make the situation more comfortable for the dog?</p>

ACTIVITY: 2

DOG DAY MEET AND GREET

DO	<p>Time: 20 Minutes</p> <p>Materials/Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A dog(s) <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members take turns standing like a tree while they have a dog come up and sniff them. Make sure members practice where their feet, arms, hands, head and eyes should be. <p>NOTE: Even though the dog being used for this activity should be friendly and well-socialized, members will get a feel for not moving while an animal sniffs and checks them out.</p>
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to become comfortable with what to do if they are approached by a strange dog.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did it feel like not being able to move when there was an animal beside you?• What do you think the dog would do if you screamed? Made eye contact? If you ran away?• Do you think the size of the dog would make a difference for this activity?• dogs?

SECTION 2C – PUPPY CARE & SOCIALIZATION – SELECTING THE DOG THAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU

Setting Objectives

Getting a new puppy is exciting but it also comes with work and responsibility. There’s a lot to consider such as supplies and training as well as choosing the dog that is the right fit for your family and lifestyle.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand the importance of selecting a dog that will live with your family for its entire lifetime
- To understand the responsibilities that come with dog ownership
- To be able to identify the proper housing needed
- To learn about puppy behaviour
- To understand the importance of providing a safe environment for your dog
- To learn proper feeding, grooming and handling techniques for your new puppy

Roll Calls

- How old was your dog when you got it? Was it a puppy or an adult?
- If you have a dog, is it a purebred or a mixed breed? What breed(s) is your dog?
- Name one sign that indicates a puppy has to go to the bathroom.

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 10 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Selection – Choosing a Dog Responsible Dog Ownership Puppy Care and Socialization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for the New Puppy • Bringing Home the New Puppy • Crate Training – selecting a crate • Place Training • Housebreaking Your Puppy Puppy Behaviour Responsibility and Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise and Play • Safety and Comfort • Feeding • Grooming • Handling <u>Activities</u> Which Dog Crate is Best? My Dog’s Accommodations	90 min + Activites
At Home Activity	House Training	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Excerpts and behaviour illustrations courtesy of Ohio State University Extension

Selection



Your dog holds an important position in your household. A friendly and well-mannered dog earns the love, kindness and respect of those they meet. Since dogs often live ten or more years, the decision to adopt a dog affects the entire family for a long time. It's a big decision! It is very important to learn everything you can about a dog and the breed you want before you consider getting it for a pet.

Never buy a dog on impulse or as a gift for someone. All puppies are cute but raising and training a puppy is a full-time commitment. And, depending on the breed, in about 12 months that cute puppy will be a full-grown dog.

Selection Considerations

You and your family need to consider several factors before owning a dog. These might include:

- ▶ A family member's fear or dislike for dogs
- ▶ Permission to have a dog where you live
- ▶ Space requirements for a dog, including space to exercise
- ▶ Expectations of owning a dog

- ▶ The time you have to commit to caring for, playing with and bonding with a dog
- ▶ The amount of patience you have
- ▶ Younger family members who may be too rough with or tease a dog
- ▶ Allergies any family members might have
- ▶ Current family pets that may be threatened by a dog
- ▶ Close neighbours
- ▶ Someone to care for your dog when your family is not home or on vacation
- ▶ Commitment on your part to care for your dog for their entire life
- ▶ The cost of your pet (routine and emergency veterinary care, feed, equipment, training)
- ▶ Future plans with your dog

What breeds of dogs attract your attention? Read about each breed and if possible, attend dog shows to meet the breed and talk with breeders. Do you care if your dog is a purebred or mixed breed? Do you want to adopt a dog from a breed rescue group or animal shelter? Find out what is available in your area. How far will you travel to find the right dog?

Other factors to consider:

- ▶ The size of the dog when it's fully grown – a younger child may find it hard to handle a large breed dog and therefore not enjoy exercising and training the dog
- ▶ Length of the dog's coat, the amount of shedding that might occur and the time and expense involved in proper grooming
- ▶ Breed temperaments – many large breed dogs have very gentle temperaments and are easy to handle where some small breeds can be snippy and hard to train. Certain breeds are known for their high energy level and if they don't stay busy, they will get into trouble. For example, Border Collies are very intelligent and active dogs. This breed may not be the best choice if you live in an apartment with no place for this breed to get adequate exercise.
- ▶ Age of the dog – do you want an adult or a puppy?
 - Adult dogs have had previous lives with some being neglected and/or abused. However, many adult dogs have excellent temperaments, are housebroken, have some obedience training and make wonderful pets. Find out everything you can about an adult dog before actually owning them.

- Owning a puppy allows you to socialize, manner and train your dog the way you want, a process that also requires a lot of time and work. Be sure you are committed to raising a puppy before owning one.

Check It Out!

Many breed rescue and shelter organizations have dogs available for adoption. Search online for organizations in your area and look at the list of dogs available. Would you want to adopt a puppy or an adult dog based on the descriptions of the dogs?

Purebred, Crossbred or Mixed Breed

A purebred dog is one whose sire (father) and dam (mother) belong to the same breed and who are themselves of unmixed descent since the recognition of that breed.

A crossbred dog is one whose parents represent two different breeds, such as the sire being a Poodle and the dam being a Golden Retriever with the offspring known as Golden Doodles. These dogs are not recognized by purebred organizations.

Mixed breed dogs are referred to in a variety of ways. A dog that is a mixture of two or more breeds, typically of unknown descent, is referred to as a mixed breed, mongrel, cur, mutt, crossbred or random-bred dog.

Do you want a purebred or mixed breed dog? Owning a purebred allows to you enter breed shows, field trails and tracking tests. Study different breeds that appeal to you. Find out all you can about the temperament, health problems or diseases that are common in the breeds you are interested in. Know what health testing should be expected of breeders to screen for these problems.

When selecting a mixed breed dog or puppy, you may not know the breeding of the animal's parents, what the puppy will look like or what size it will be when it's full grown. In some cases, mixed breed dogs benefit from hybrid vigor where dogs of mixed backgrounds will be healthier than those from purebred lines. Mixed breed dogs are sometimes less likely to have genetic health problems because their parents come from a more diverse genetic pool.

While mixed breed dogs cannot be shown in conformation and recognized breed classes, they can be shown in a number of competitions including obedience trials, agility and other events that are fun for you and your dog as well as being shown at your 4-H Achievement Program if your club chooses to have a show. Be sure to spay or neuter a mixed breed dog to avoid adding to the overpopulation of unwanted dogs and puppies.

Many mixed breed dogs are available for adoption from shelters. Breed rescues also usually have puppies or dogs available. These dogs are purebred but have been abandoned for a variety of reasons.

Purchasing a Purebred Puppy

To purchase a purebred puppy or dog, find a reputable breeder. Contact breed clubs in your area or attend a dog show to find contacts for breeders. Prepare a list of questions for the breeder:

- Can we see the puppy's parents?
- What health issues were addressed before and after breeding?
- Are the registration papers filed?
- Is a pedigree available?
- May we have our veterinarian check the puppy before purchase?

When selecting the puppy consider the following:

- Find out how the puppy you are interested in was housed and handled
- Do not purchase a puppy younger than seven weeks old. Puppies learn things such as bite inhibition and submissive and dominant behavior lessons from their mother and the other puppies in the litter during this time. These lessons are something that humans can't duplicate and are important for the puppy's social development.
- Spend some time watching the entire litter. Select a puppy that is friendly and outgoing instead of one that is shy or appears frightened by a stranger.
- Some breeders may give you a pedigree of your dog. A pedigree is a list of that particular dog's ancestors for three or more generations. Give more consideration to the sire and dam than to the grandsire and granddam. An outstanding animal far back in the pedigree cannot significantly influence the puppy's type or performance.

If you intend to compete in breed shows, first become well acquainted with the standards on which the breed is judged. Dogs in breed shows are judged on their conformation and how close they are to the breed standard. A copy of these breed standards can be found on the Canadian Kennel Club's website.

Dogs in field and obedience trials are judged on their performance. Field trials are held for dogs bred for hunting quail, pheasant, grouse, rabbits, ducks and other upland game birds and animals. A thorough knowledge of the sport should be gained before a purchase is made.

The cost for professional training, entry fees, travel, food, lodging and the time necessary for making a champion in either conformation or field may be more than you think. Talk to people who regularly show and/or compete with their dogs to find out more before purchasing your dog. You may decide that you want to be a part of these competitions or you might decide instead that a dog that meets your needs as a pet is what you would like.

Indoor or Outdoor

Dogs are pack animals and without companionship, socialization, training and exercise, they exhibit undesirable behaviours like constant barking and digging. While many breeds can live healthy lives in outdoor kennels, your dog should be kept outdoors only if you are committed to spending a lot of time with them. If kept outdoors, your dog should have a well-designed doghouse, appropriate bedding and a safe, secure enclosure.

Many people keep their dogs indoors part of the time and outdoors during the day. What is important is consistent housing. A dog will suffer if its sleeping quarters are repeatedly changed from indoors to outdoors.

If your dog needs to be outside part of the time, make sure it has a secure enclosure with access to shelter and water (and have a method of making sure the water doesn't freeze in colder weather). A concrete run with chain link fencing provides an easily disinfected, secure area. Whatever type of fencing is used, it must be high enough that the dog cannot jump over it and it must be secured at the bottom to prevent the dog digging and escaping underneath it. It also must be tall enough to keep other dogs and animals from getting in.

Dogs that are kept tied out on a chain develop any undesirable traits and often exhibit aggression. Dogs should never be left unattended on a tie out as they might hang themselves, get tangled up or be attacked by another dog.

Beware of assumptions about so-called outdoor dogs. “Outdoor” often implies ‘out of sight, out of mind’ which means they may not receive the same monitoring, supervision and close observation as indoor breeds. Maintaining a healthy dog is as important as proper housing and husbandry. So too is socialization. Leaving outdoor dogs to function on their own instincts without close supervision can lead to health and behavioural issues. Dog breeds that may have lived most of their lives outdoors still need to be socialized and trained.

Male or Female

A decision must be made whether to get a male or female puppy. Females, if not spayed, experience their first estrus cycle a few months after reaching puberty. If you do not have your female dog spayed, you need to keep her away from male dogs as well as from other females as she is more likely to fight with females. You will also have to clean up after vaginal discharges, which are bloody for about one week.

Female dogs are typically easier to house-train and do not mark territory as much as male dogs.

Male dogs that are not neutered may tend to roam. They are more likely to mark territory and be aggressive with other dogs. Spayed females and neutered males make equally great pets so selecting a male or female puppy becomes a personal preference.

Responsible Dog Ownership

When you own a dog, you have made a commitment to that animal’s health and welfare. As a responsible dog owner, you must provide the dog with:

- Suitable shelter
- Food
- Water
- Regular veterinary care, including vaccinations
- Proper grooming
- Adequate exercise
- Socialization and training for a well-manner pet

Check It Out!

Find out what it costs at your local veterinary clinic for spaying or neutering your puppy. Is there a difference in cost if the dog is a mature dog instead of a puppy for this surgery? This activity could be a ‘Check It Out At Home!’ activity.

The commitment lasts the dog's entire lifetime which could exceed ten years. Smaller dogs may live 15 years or longer, while the giant breeds may live only eight or nine years.

Being a responsible dog owner means that you have a responsibility to your neighbours and the general public. Know your local laws regarding dog ownership, including breed laws, leash laws, license requirements and rabies vaccination requirements. Never let your dog run loose unsupervised. Your dog might be out chasing bicycles or cars, causing accidents or getting hit by a car. An unsupervised outside dog might get into the neighbour's garbage or items in an open garage, shed, house or barn.

Other considerations for being a responsible dog owner:

- Do not allow your dog to bark continually. Barking dogs are a common complaint of neighbours. Also, make sure your dog has been socialized before taking it out in public. Aggression, barking and biting are socially unacceptable.
- Clean up after your dog when you take it outside. Carry bags with you to clean up after your dog defecates. To pick up the stool, place the bag inside out over your hand. Pick up the stool, pull the bag right side out and then dispose of the bag in an appropriate place
- Not everybody likes dogs. Some people are allergic to them or are afraid of them. Do not allow your dog to run up to people and jump on them. Always ask before bringing your dog to visit in another home. Your friends might enjoy your dog in your home but may not want your dog in their home.
- There are millions of unwanted dogs. Every pet owner has the responsibility to prevent their dogs from contributing to the overpopulation problem. Spay or neuter your dog.

Check It Out!

Invite your local animal by-law enforcement officer to your meeting to discuss what the laws for animal ownership are in your area.

Housing

When selecting or assessing a dog's living space, consider the following:

- A dog that lives outside still needs plenty of attention and time
- A dog that lives inside will need to be let out to relieve themselves several times a day, especially when they are young
- An indoor dog will need to be walked and exercised or at least provided an outside run area that will allow self-exercise
- Dogs with short hair coats, puppies and older dogs may require protection from the cold weather
- Heavy-coated dogs and dogs with “pug” faces don't do well in very warm or very humid weather

Whether the dog is an indoor or an outdoor dog, it is important to provide your dog with a “home” of their own. This may be a doghouse or crate to go to for comfort and relaxation. The home should be large enough for the dog to enter, turn around in and lie down in. Too much room can make it difficult to stay. It should always be placed in a well-ventilated area with no direct sunlight on it as it may get too hot. For outdoor houses, the door entrance should be off-centre so the dog can snuggle away from any drafts. Putting a flap over the door will help break drafts.

Discuss It!

Some people think all dogs should live indoors. What do you think? Would this work in Canada?

Puppy Care and Socialization

Preparing for the new puppy

Before you bring your new puppy home, make sure you have the essential supplies ready. You will need to know the breed and size of dog you are getting as well as how quickly it will grow to make sure you get the supplies that are the appropriate size for your new puppy.

- Food bowl
- Water bowl
- Bedding
- Toys
- Collar
- Leash
- Grooming equipment

A plain buckle collar made out of leather or nylon for identification tags, license tags and rabies tags is sufficient. The leash should be made of leather, nylon or cotton webbing. A chain leash is too heavy for a puppy and can pinch your fingers.

Bringing home a new puppy



Image Credit: Vets4Pets <https://www.vets4pets.com/pet-health-advice/dog-advice/puppy/preparing-for-your-new-puppy/>

Bring your new puppy home in the morning, preferable on a Saturday morning, so you have the weekend to get adjusted. By arriving in the morning, the dog has a long day in which to get to know you and will be more willing to settle down and fall asleep that night.

If you have a long distance to drive with the puppy, ask the breeder (or the shelter or breed rescue group) not to feed the dog since the puppy might become carsick during the trip home.

Give your puppy its first meal in your home when it is fairly hungry so it learns it can depend on you. Ask for some of the puppy's regular food when picking up the puppy so the puppy stays on the same diet it is used to. A completely strange diet may upset the puppy's digestive system. If you wish to change to a different brand of food, do it gradually over the course of a number of days after the puppy has settled into your home.

Share It!

Tell the group about the day your family brought a new puppy home. Did it go smoothly?

Crate Training

A dog is naturally a den animal. They feel safe and secure when they can curl up in a covered area. The crate is your dog's den, a place for them to rest without being disturbed, to go to when they want peace and quiet and to sleep. Your dog can be safe, secure and stay out of trouble by being in a crate when you are gone for awhile. Feeding meals in the crate can help the dog make the crate their home and encourages proper rest time after eating.

Selecting a Crate

When selecting a crate, be sure to get one large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around and stretch out comfortable. If you get a large crate that your puppy will eventually grow into, block off the back to make the interior smaller and then increase the space as the dog grows. Crates can be plastic, wire or fabric and each type has its own advantage. Some crates are acceptable for air travel.

When you get the crate home, put the crate where your puppy can see their family and not be totally isolated. Depending on your situation, you may decide to have crates in more than one place.



Wire crates are usually collapsible, easy to transport and well-ventilated.



Plastic crates provide warmth and comfort.



Fabric crates, made from canvas or nylon, are light-weight and collapsible. Caution should be taken with fabric crates as a dog that is determined to escape can tear through one. Cover the crate floor with a blank rug or pad for your dog to lie on.

Crate Images Credit: PetSmart Inc. <https://www.petsmart.com>

Crate Training

You will most likely need to put your puppy into their crate before they are crate trained as they won't go in on their own. Prepare the crate with a comfortable pad, blanket or rug. Put a treat in the crate, pick up your puppy, put it in the crate, close the door and walk away. Don't talk to your puppy in a whiny voice or make a big deal out of them being alone in the crate. This matter-of-fact approach teaches your puppy that being in the crate is simply a fact of life and not a form of punishment. Your attitude is key. When you need your puppy to go into the crate, you can't present it as an option.

Actual crate training goes one step further. The point is to teach your dog to enter the crate on command as you won't be able to place the dog in its crate when it becomes an adult, depending on the size of the dog. Crate training can take anywhere from one session to a couple of weeks.

Begin crate training as soon as possible after bringing your puppy home. The first step is to leave the door open and toss a treat just inside the open door. When the dog reaches in and take the treat, praise them. Gradually toss the treat further inside the crate so they have to walk in all the way to get it. Continue with praise. During this stage, avoid pushing and forcing the dog into the crate or shutting the door. The dog is learning that the crate is a good place to be.

Once your puppy is going into the crate for a treat, begin using a verbal command such as "crate" when the dog goes in. Eventually the puppy will learn that "crate" (or whatever word you use) is the dog's cue to enter the crate.

The next step is to close the door. Put the treat in the crate, tell your dog to "crate" and once the dog is in the crate and seems relaxed and happy, close the door. Don't latch it. Praise the dog and then open the door. This should only take a few seconds. Let the dog come out of the crate. Continue doing this practice, closing the door for a few more seconds each time. Once the dog is comfortable in the crate with the door shut, latch the door and step away. Return to the crate, open the door, praise the dog and give it another treat. Gradually step further away for longer periods of time. Vary the distance and time you are away from the crate. Eventually the dog learns that the crate is a good thing and a part of their routine.

Experience It!

Plan a visit to a local pet supply store to see what types of housing and crates they sell for dogs. Ask them to explain the differences between each type. Be sure to look at prices as well for the size of dog that you have (or would like to get).

Sometimes a dog whines or fusses when they are in the crate. Don't let the dog out when its whining or fussing. This will teach the dog that when it makes a fuss that someone will let it out of the crate. Instead, wait until the dog has quieted down for a few seconds, then praise the dog and reward the dog for being quiet.

When your dog doesn't have to be crated, keep the door open and toys in the crate so the dog can go in and out as they want.

Always take a puppy's collar off when putting them in the crate so the collar or tags don't get caught on wires or openings and choke the dog.

Place Training

Place training teaches your puppy to stay in a defined area. It is teaching your dog a location to call his own. Once your dog learns "place", you can take that place with you. The place could be a towel, rug, mat or dog bed that belongs to your dog and is not shared by other animals or people.

There are two methods to teaching place:

1. Put the towel, rug, mat or dog bed on the floor. Allow at least two metres of open area around you so you can move to the place from different directions. Have a treat ready in your hand. Move one to two metres from place. Walk towards the place, drop the treat on it and say "place." Give the dog a "sit" or "down" command when the dog reaches the treat and praise the dog by saying "good place." Move off the place and repeat.
2. Put the towel, rug, mat or dog bed on the floor with plenty of room around it so you can move to it from different directions. Set it up so that it is between you and your dog. Call your dog to you and when it steps on the place, say "place." Give the command to "sit" or "down", give the treat and say "good place." Move off and repeat.

Properly trained and established "place" is great to take with you to shows, the vet's office and anywhere your dog may be required to be quietly waiting with you.

Housebreaking Your Puppy



Image Credit: <https://www.rescuedogs101.com/potty-train-puppy-fast/>

The first night with your puppy may be difficult. When your family is ready for bed, take the puppy outside. Be sure the dog relieves itself as this is the time to form the habit.

The best place for the puppy to sleep is in a crate in your bedroom. This way the puppy is able to smell and hear you and you can hear the puppy if it starts to stir.

Your puppy may whine when it is put to bed. Do not reward your puppy for his behaviour. However, a very young puppy cannot make it through the night without having to go out at least once. If your puppy has been asleep for several hours and then fusses in the middle of the night, check on the puppy. It probably needs to go out. When you take the puppy out, do not cuddle and play with it. Take the puppy outside and praise it when it relieves itself. Then bring the puppy back in and put it in its crate. You don't want to encourage middle-of-the-night outings by giving the puppy any attention. As your puppy gets older, its bladder will mature enough for them to be able to make it through the night.

Be sure to take your puppy out immediately after waking up, within one to thirty minutes after eating (depending on the puppy), after exercise or play and after any excitement.

Watch for signs of having to go to the bathroom such as:

- Circling
- Sniffing the floor
- Whining
- Running with his nose to the floor
- Beginning to squat

When you notice any of these signs, get the puppy's attention and call it to the door. Do not pick the puppy up unless necessary as you want to get the puppy to go out on its own.

Go out the same door each time and go directly to where you want the puppy to eliminate. Stay outside with the puppy, even in bad weather. Your puppy may sniff around and take a little while to go but if you stay inside, the puppy may forget about going to the bathroom because it wants to be back inside with you. You may think it didn't have to go, resulting in an inside accident. As soon as the puppy goes, praise it.

Accidents happen and when your puppy has an accident in the house, do not frighten or punish it. Punishing your puppy teaches it to go and hide someplace to relieve itself. If you catch your puppy in the act, immediately get its attention with a shout so it turns its attention to you. Then try to get it to follow you outside or pick it up and put it outside. If the puppy has not completed his job in the house, it should eventually finish outside. Praise the puppy once it has finished outside.

If your puppy has an accident in the house and you don't catch the puppy doing it, do not scold it for what it did earlier. The puppy won't remember what it did a few seconds after doing it. Your puppy will not know why it is being scolded. It will only know that you are angry with it and will respond with a submissive posture. Your puppy is not acting guilty for using the bathroom inside. It just wants to make you happy.

Housebreaking takes diligence and determination but by being very attentive to your puppy's needs, there will be very few accidents. The goal is not to give your puppy the opportunity to make a mistake.

Puppy Behaviour

In order for you to train your dog in a way that is fun and challenging for both of you, it is helpful to understand something about animal behaviour. Refer to the meeting on Communication and Behaviour.

Puppy behaviour is unique but the same training methods will also work well with older dogs. All training takes patience and a positive attitude. Puppy socialization is so very important in shaping your dog's grownup personality and behaviour. To help make your dog the best family pet possible, there are important foundation steps to follow.

Because dogs are extremely social animals, any attention your puppy gets is rewarding. Puppies repeat behaviour that is rewarding. The good things a dog does will happen more often if you give them a "reward" immediately when they do them. These rewards can be a pat, a treat, praise, a clicker click or even a smile. You can learn more about reinforcing rewards in the meeting about Getting Started With Training

All dogs, especially puppies, sometimes do things we don't like. Behaviour we don't want repeated should get no reward. Such behaviour should get no attention at all. Ignoring a puppy is a very effective way of telling the puppy not to do that behaviour again. Folding your arms and turning away from the puppy is body language that say "I don't want you to do that." Removing attention is more successful than punishment. Some punishment may be rewarding and/or reinforcing. Harsh punishment may result in fearfulness, retaliation (aggression), an increase in the undesirable behaviour or even new undesirable behaviours.

Discuss It!

There are various ways to praise a puppy for good behaviour. List as many methods as possible to praise a dog. What method do you think is best? Is it best to use more than one than one method?

Responsibility and Management

In order to prevent troubles, you need to have good management skills. That means it is your responsibility to control your dog's environment. You are responsible for your puppy's:

- Safety
- Comfort
- Exercise
- Feeding
- Grooming
- Training
- Playing

Your approach should always be focused on prevention and reinforcement (praise and reward) rather than correction.

Exercise and Play

Young dogs have big exercise needs. Many breeds require activities that provide mental (mind exercises) and physical activities. Puppies that have enough running and playing are more content and more willing to settle down for training. They tend to be quieter in the house. When you play with your puppy you are building a relationship that is fun for both of you.

Some exercise suggestions are:

1. Outdoor running or hiking with the puppy running free (in a safe area) or with a drag line. A drag line can be a long, light, nylon or cotton line with knots spaced approximately every 15cm. It gives you a way of stopping your puppy from going too far from you (step on a knot) but still gives your puppy the feeling of being free. Call your puppy every so often and reward it for coming. Then set it on its way again to explore. This is a great way to teach your puppy to respond to its name and to your Come command. Don't forget the rewards.

2. Games – Teach your puppy games you would like to play such as retrieving and hide and seek. Retrieving games are more successful if you start with two or more toys. Your puppy gets the second one when he returns to you with the first. Remember to put words (commands) to their behaviours such as “Fetch it”, “Bring it” or “Pick it up.” Hide and seek is a great for the whole family. It builds your puppy's attention and recall skills. Try hiding toys and treats under cushions and all over the house. Help your puppy find them by using your voice to let it know when it is close. Also try hiding yourself and see if your puppy can find you.

Tug-of-war and keep-away are not good games for puppies. Dogs will try to teach you these games. Tug-of-war is a game where the puppy must learn to play by your rules. You control when the game begins and ends. Adult supervision is recommended and tug-of-war should never be played to the point of agitation (growling). Any aggressive behaviour should not be rewarded with your attention or instigated by anyone. The game of keep-away (chase me) should be ignored. When you chase your puppy, it learns to run away from you, thinking it's a game.

Safety and Comfort

It is also your responsibility to provide a safe environment for your puppy. It is very much like a human baby in that it doesn't understand what is safe and what is not. Outdoors, your puppy needs a fenced area, either a yard or a kennel. When puppies are very young, they want to stay with you but as they get older, they start to become more adventurous, wanting to explore and possibly run away from you at times.

Do not let your puppy jump out of the car when the door opens or let it run out of an open gate. Always have your puppy on a leash or long line when not in a completely safe area. If a dog park isn't available in your area, a tennis court at a park or school is a great safe area for hands-free play and training. Be sure to ask permission first before using a public area that is not designated specifically for dogs.

Indoors, there are gates, closed doors and puppy proof areas for your puppy to roam. A crate is very helpful as it is a safe place for your puppy to stay.

As your puppy matures, things will appear differently to them. Puppies go through a fear stage between eight and ten weeks old. Something that was familiar yesterday may be frightening today. You must try to make his environment positive and avoid excessively loud noises or harmful experiences during this period. Your puppy needs your help in building its confidence to explore new things. Encourage it slowly and let your puppy come around to checking things in its own time. Always be positive and ready with rewards.

Do It!

Find out if there is an area close to where you live that is a safe area for you to let your dog run off leash. Is this area designated specifically for dogs? If so, are there rules for using this area?

When traveling with your puppy in a car, be prepared for motion sickness by carrying paper towels and a bag. Puppies usually outgrow this and riding in a crate helps.

A crate is also the safest way for your dog to travel. Expose your puppy to stairs and possibly elevators as well as many types of sounds such as a hairdryer and a vacuum cleaner. Your puppy should meet all types of people including children, adults, people with disabilities, and anyone who makes deliveries to your residence. Always have extra treats for new people to give your puppy. It should see bicycles and strollers and learn to walk on a variety of surfaces. Your puppy also needs to learn how to greet other dogs and meet cats, horses and a variety of animals. Puppies usually handle this better than older dogs and is why it should be a part of a puppy's learning experience.

Do It!

Write yourself a puppy scavenger-hunt list and include tasks such as meeting a man with a beard, riding in an elevator and walking beside a stroller. Keep the list posted, and make sure you put time aside to complete each exercise.

Feeding

When and how you feed your puppy is as important as what you feed it. The nutritional needs of a dog are covered in the Canine Nutrition section. But how and when you feed your dog is also important. It is important that you measure how much food your puppy is eating and when they are eating it. This will help you to control your dog's weight and bathroom times and enables your dog to fit into your family's schedule and maintain a healthy weight. Look at how much food your dog should receive in a day for its age and divide the daily amount of food into two or three feedings. Offer the food to your dog when you know you will be able to let it

go outside to the bathroom after it eats. Give your dog ten to twenty minutes to consume the food. If your dog hasn't eaten the food in that amount of time, take away the food and save it for the next feeding. If food is always present, your dog may not realize where it comes from and may become possessive of their feeding area. You also won't know how much your dog eats and when so it will become difficult to schedule trips outside to go the bathroom as well as maintaining a healthy weight for your dog.

Grooming

Frequently handling and holding your puppy when it is younger and smaller will prepare it for grooming and examinations. Grooming is a relationship-building exercise with your puppy. When you groom your puppy, you assume a leadership role. The leader of the pack of animals is the one who decides who gets groomed and when. Your puppy should respect you when you control his grooming. It is important to start when your puppy is young and smaller. The assistance of an adult when first beginning grooming is recommended. Make grooming a fun and positive experience for both you and your puppy. An outline of how to start grooming is as follows:

1. Find a quiet, comfortable place. Use a table or someplace elevated where the dog is high enough to easily groom. Put a non-skid mat or non-slip surface under the dog so it feels secure. Never leave the dog unattended as they may jump off the table and injure themselves. If you don't feel comfortable working with the dog on a table, have the dog stand on the floor.
2. Establish a routine. Use the same area for grooming each time so that your puppy knows it is time to be groomed when you put it on the grooming table. For long-haired breeds a few minutes daily at regular times may be necessary at first. For short-haired breeds, grooming weekly is enough.
3. Be prepared. Know what grooming your animal needs. If your puppy needs a bath, brush them first and remove any tangles. Bathing requires equipment in addition to the brushing equipment. If need be, have an extra pair of hands to help you. Always have treats available to reward appropriate behaviour but make sure they are out of the dog's reach but accessible to you. Let your dog see and smell your equipment and surroundings before grooming begins.
4. Remain calm. Talk in a soothing voice and work gently around your puppy.

4. Remain calm. Talk in a soothing voice and work gently around your puppy.
5. Start slowly. Be satisfied with small accomplishments and reward them. Be prepared to wait for good behaviour. Be patient and firm. Do not ask for permission to groom your dog. You are in control.
6. End your session on a positive note. It's a win even if it is just detangling one mat or trimming one toenail. The attention span of a puppy is shorter than that of an older dog. Make your grooming sessions short, positive experiences.

Visit a groomer or ask a professional to help you in choosing the equipment you may need. Establishing a grooming schedule and caring for your equipment is your responsibility as a dog owner.

Refer to the section on grooming in the Canine Health section for additional information.

Handling



Everything you have been doing to shape who your puppy grows up to be involves handling in one way or another. There is no replacement for the way you put your hands on your puppy for all of its needs including playing, feeding and grooming. The contact between you and your puppy is the most important part of your relationship. Using your hands to handle your dog helps your dog to trust people.

Practice restricting your puppy's movements. Several times daily, sit on the floor with your dog's back between your legs and draw it close to you with your hands on its chest. Hold your dog even if it is struggling. Hold it until you feel its muscles relax – then you relax, but do not let go yet.

Your dog will probably begin struggling again when it feels you relax your hold. You should tighten up again until your dog understands that you are going to hold it in place until you decide to let go. You might vary the position in which you hold your dog but do restrictive exercises with it often, always being firm but not hurtful. When doing these exercises, speak very little but when speaking, speak in a kind, soft voice. A dog that learns to trust human hands is pleasant and trustworthy at the veterinary clinic, at the groomer's and with children. A dog that trusts you will accept training and showing much easier and in turn, you can trust your dog to be a good canine citizen.

Do It!

If you have a young dog, practice restricting your puppy's movements as described in this section about Handling.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

How hard was it to house-train your dog? Did you do it or did another family do the house-training?

If you don't have a dog, talk to someone who does and ask what methods they used for house-training. How successful was their method and would they do something different the next time? Be prepared to report your house-training method or what you found out from another dog owner at the next meeting.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Many people crate train their dog but some people don't feel that this is in the best interest of the dog. Research and list at least five pro's and con's of crate training and based on this list, choose which method of training would work best in your situation.

ACTIVITY #1

WHICH DOG CRATE IS BEST?

DO	<p>Time: 30 Minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four dog crates• Judging Sheet (found at the end of this meeting and in the Record Book)• Writing utensil <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set out dog crates and label them one through four• Ask members to list what qualities (criteria) are needed for a dog crate to be considered suitable for a dog• Have members rank the dog crates one through four with one being the one that has the best qualities and write down their answers• Ask for volunteers to explain why they placed the dog crates in the order that they did.• If there are senior member's in the group, have them present formal reasons for their placings.
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to critically think about the desirable and undesirable characteristics of a dog crate.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there other qualities (criteria) that you can now think of that you should have considered when ranking the dog crates?• Was this an easy or hard activity?• Did you change your rankings when you heard other members give the reasons why they made their choices for one through four?• Was there a right and a wrong answer? Does everyone agree on which crate should be placed as number one?

ACTIVITY #2

MY DOG'S ACCOMMODATION

DO	<p>Time: 30 Minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper, pencil <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On a piece of paper, draw pictures or include photos of your dog's accommodation and run area• Label what you think is the best feature of your dog's home <p>Consider questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your dog's home warm in the winter?• Is your dog's home cool in the summer?• Is there a draft?• Is it easy to clean and keep cleaned?• Is the space wet or at risk of moisture?
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to better understand a dog's living conditions and to consider the role that space and environment plays in the overall health and temperament of their dog</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would you be comfortable sleeping where your dog sleeps?• If your dog got cold, wet or too hot and tired, how might it behave?• How does their housing affect their health?

SAMPLE JUDGING CARD

Judging – Judging Card

Criteria:

1. Is the item made properly?
2. Does the item serve the purpose for the class it is in?
3. Is it the proper size for its purpose?
4. Does it smell and/or look like it should?
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

**note: additional requirements can be added to list specific to the item being judged

Giving Reasons:

I place this class of _____, _____, _____, _____.

I place _____ first because.....

I place _____ over _____ because.....

I place _____ over _____ because.....

I place _____ over _____ because.....

I place _____ 4th because.....

For these reasons, I place this class of _____, _____, _____, _____.

Official Placing _____.

CANINE HEALTH



SECTION 3A – ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Setting Objectives

As a dog owner, it is important to know the correct terms for a dog's body parts so that we can effectively communicate with others about our dog. This section will help to provide clarity when talking to a dog groomer, help to describe problems to a veterinarian and understand the problems they diagnose and to have a stronger vocabulary when talking about a dog's conformation.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To be able to recognize and name predominant parts of a dog's body
- To have a basic understanding of different anatomical systems of a dog
- To understand why certain systems work the way they do in a dog's body
- To identify differences between the human body and the canine body

Roll Calls

- Why do you think it's important to understand the anatomy of a dog?
- Name one reason why understanding the physiology of a dog is important to a dog owner.
- Name one part of a dog's external anatomy.

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 20 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<p><u>Topic Information</u></p> <p>Anatomy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Parts • Skeletal System • Skull (Head Shapes) • Feet • Dog Nail Anatomy • Teeth <p>Physiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin and Hair • Muscular System • Respiratory System • Nervous System • Digestive System • Endocrine System • Urinary System • Reproductive System • The Senses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Touch ◦Taste ◦Smell (Olfaction) ◦Hearing ◦Sight <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>Pin the Tail on the Dog</p> <p>Feel Trip</p> <p>Walking Anatomy Lesson</p>	100 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Whiskers	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Anatomy and Physiology

Anatomy is the branch of biology that studies the structure and form of living things.

Physiology is the branch of biology that studies how living organisms and their various body parts function.

Knowing what proper canine anatomy looks like will help you to choose a structurally sound dog that is a true representative of the breed. Understanding the anatomy of a dog is part of being a responsible dog owner. Knowing this information makes it easier to understand the principles of your dog's care and management and should prepare you to recognize signs of injury and sickness. This will help you to be able to tell your veterinarian and other animal professionals about your dog should you have any questions or concerns.

Anatomy

External Parts

When looking at the outward appearance and external parts of a dog is referred to as topographical anatomy. Topographical anatomy terms are used by judges and breeders to describe a dog's conformation.

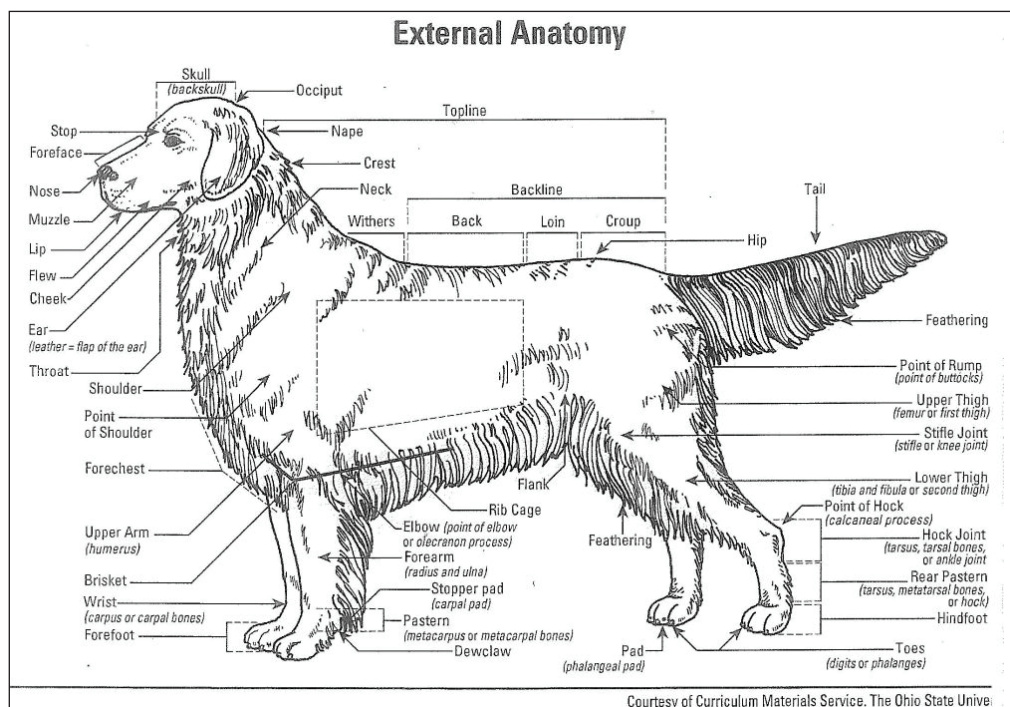


Image Credit: Dog Resource Handbook, Ohio State University Extension

Skeletal System

Skeletal anatomy refers to the examination of the skeleton to understand where the bones are in relation to the external anatomy. When comparing the human skeleton to the canine skeleton, you will find a number of similarities as well as differences. The major differences are the upright posture assumed by humans, the absence of collarbones in dogs and the attachment of the humerus of the dog to the chest wall along his entire length. In addition, humans walk on the entire foot while dogs only walk on the equivalent of a human toe. A dog's skeleton includes up to 319 bones.

Check It Out!

There are a number of free online games for canine anatomy. Do a search online to find one that is suitable for your

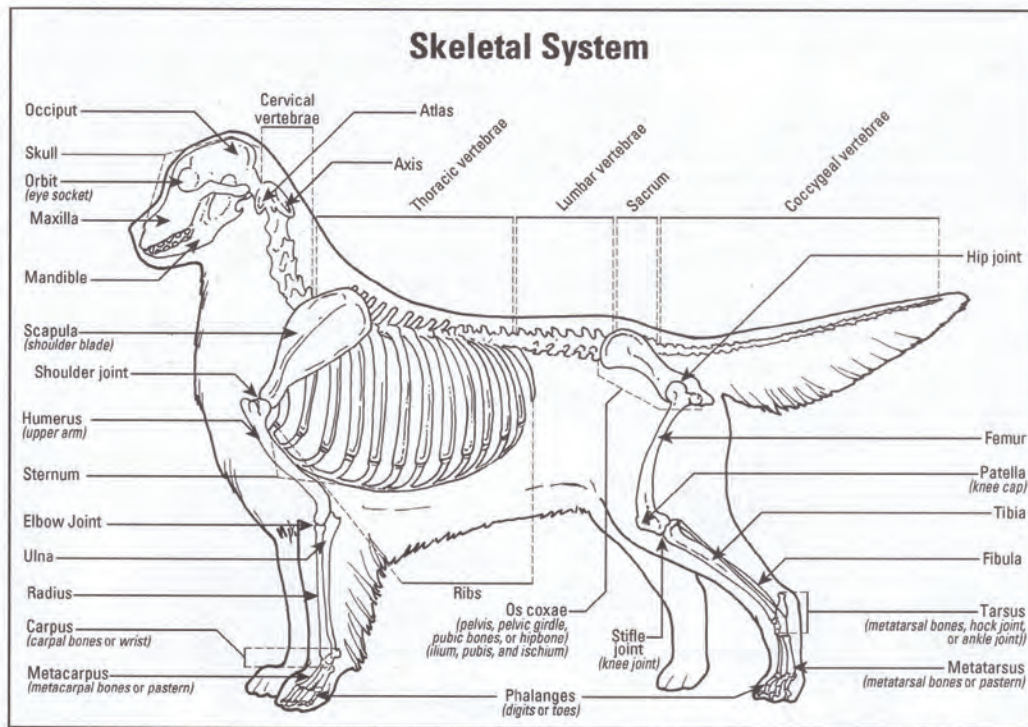
The skeleton is divided into the axial skeleton and the appendicular skeleton.

1. Axial Skeleton

- Purpose is to protect internal organs
- Consists of mainly flat and irregular bones in the skull, spine, ribs and pelvis

2. Appendicular skeleton

- Comprised of the fore and hind limbs which provide support for the body and attachment sites for muscles used in movement



Courtesy of Curriculum Materials Service, The Ohio State University.

Image Credit: Dog Resource Handbook, Ohio State University Extension

Skull (Head Shapes)

There are three basic skull or head shapes in dogs:

1. Dolichocephalic – long head

- heads are long and narrow with an elongated muzzle
- dogs have long necks and body build that is agile and swift
- includes breeds such as Whippet, German Shepherd, Saluki, Rough Collie, Great Dane, Greyhound, Poodle

2. Mesocephalic – middle/medium head

- heads have a wider skull base with a long face
- includes breeds such as the Dalmatian, Beagle, Border Collie, Malinois, Retrievers, Yorkshire Terrier and English Springer Spaniel

3. Brachycephalic – short head

- heads have a wide skull with a shortened muzzle
- dogs typically have wrinkled skin over the muzzle, protruding eyes and an undershot jaw
- includes breeds such as the Boston Terrier, Pug, Bulldog, Pekinese, Boxer and the King Charles Spaniel

Experience It!

Go on a feel trip with your dog and find all of these bones. Take extra caution when feeling the bones in the face and other sensitive areas on your dog. For further instructions, see Activity #2 at the end of this section.

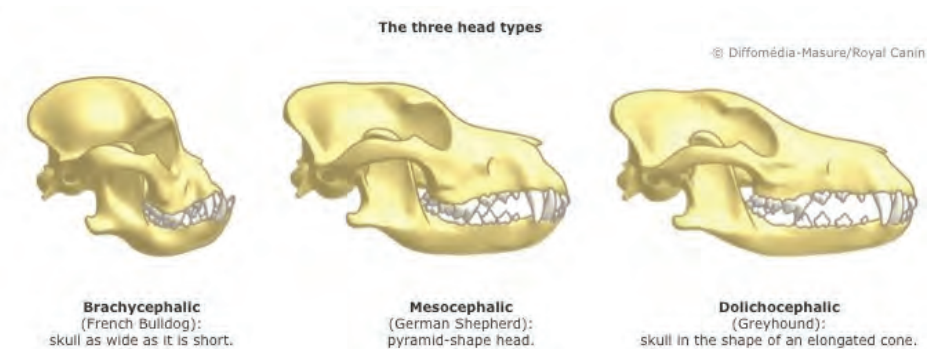


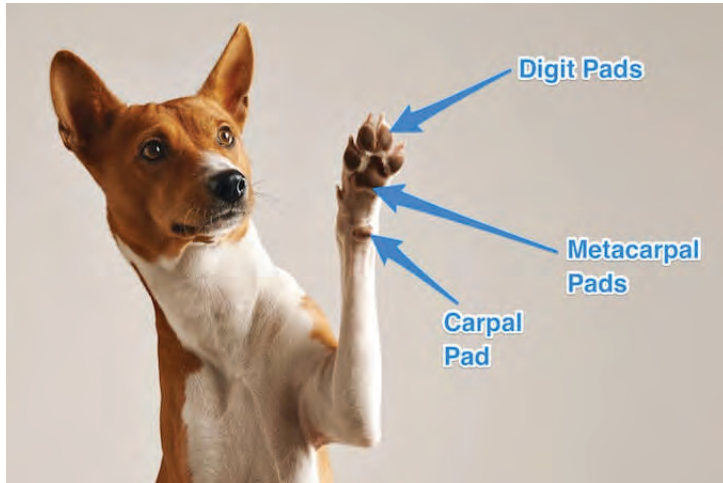
Image Credit: Royal Canin https://www.royalcanin.com/ca/en_ca

Share It!

What type of skull shape does your dog have? Can you name other breeds with the same skull shape?

Feet

Dogs have four functional toes (phalanges) or digits on each foot. All breeds have a fifth vestigial digit on each front foot called a dewclaw and some breeds have one or more on each rear foot as well. Dewclaws no longer serve a purpose.



The front feet have five pads plus a non-weight bearing vestigial pad (also called a carpal pad, stopper pad or carpal cushion. The hind feet have five pads. The pads, which are modified skin structures, are covered with a thick leathery skin that protects the bottom of the foot. The fatty inner layer of the pad serves as a shock absorber when the dog walks and runs. The sweat glands, called the eccrine glands, help keep the pads supple, while allowing the dog to lose heat or sweat through his paws. The large metacarpal pads bear most of the dog's weight. The four oval shaped pads are known as digit pads. The pads are much less sensitive to heat and cold than are other parts of the dog's skin.

Paw pads are crucial for cushioning of the bones, providing traction and abrasion resistance. If there is trauma or injury to any one of the pads, it can often result in loss of limb function.

Check It Out!

Using a friendly, calm dog that is okay with having its paws touched, exam the paw and identify each part of the paw and the name of that part. Check to see if the dog has any webbing between its toes. Some breeds have webbing that help them to be a strong swimmer.

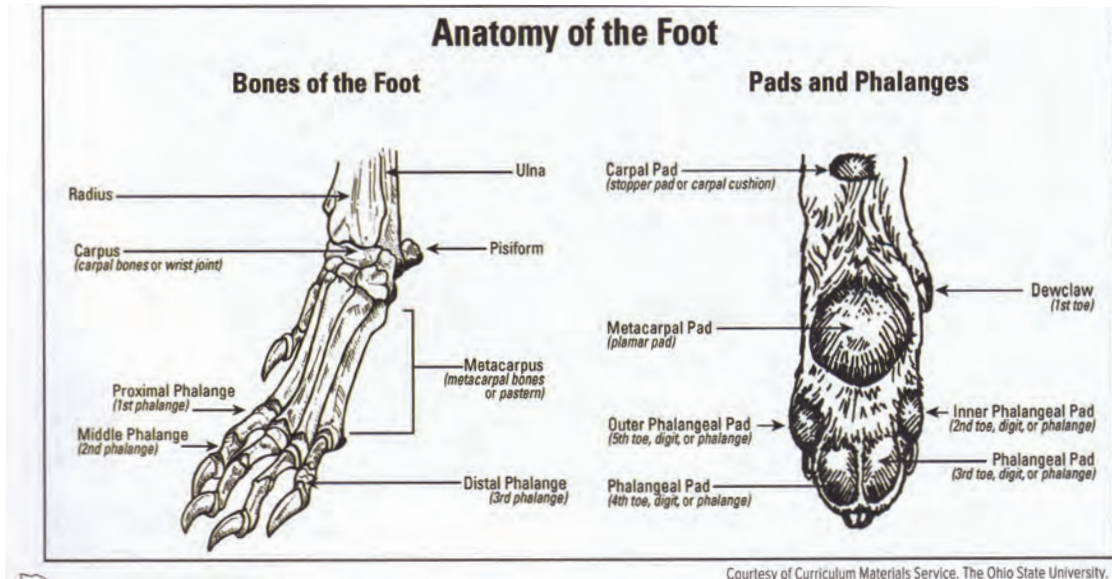


Image Credit: Dog Resource Handbook, Ohio State University Extension

Dog Nail Anatomy



Image Credit: All Things Dog <https://www.allthingsdogs.com/dog-anatomy/>

Many owners are worried about trimming their dog's nails at the risk of making them bleed, especially if the dog has black nails.

The nail consists of a harder outer shell which is usually either pink/white or black. Inside of this shell is a soft cuticle which is known as the quick; this has a blood supply and a nerve. The quick is more easily noticed in light colored nails. It is the pinkish area.

When nails are trimmed, if the quick is caught; it will bleed and cause pain. Most dogs if walked regularly will keep their nails down. If you are concerned about the length of your dog's nails, speak with your veterinarian. They may even show you how to safely trim them.

Teeth

A dog's mouth is constructed for the diet of a carnivore. Dogs are able to stab, catch and hold prey as well as tear, grind, chew and nibble on the meat.

Puppies are born without any teeth. At three to six weeks of age they grow 28 puppy teeth (also called milk teeth or deciduous teeth) that are razor sharp. There are 14 teeth in the upper jaw and 14 teeth in the lower jaw.

At around 3 to 4 months old, these puppy teeth fall out due to the adult teeth pushing through. You may find puppy teeth around your home, but many puppies swallow them. Although there are some variations in breeds, most adult dogs have 42 permanent teeth (also called adult teeth). The set of permanent teeth are complete when the puppy is about six to eight months old with the molars coming in last. Out of the 42 permanent teeth, 20 are in the upper jaw and 22 in the lower jaw.

The 42 teeth in the mouth are divided up as follows:

- Canine teeth – a dog has four canine teeth which they use to capture, grasp, and tear prey. These are the largest teeth in the mouth and have very long, strong roots. The root is actually longer than the visible tooth.
- Premolars – a dog has 16 premolars which are used for cutting holding meat. These teeth are deeply rooted into the head.
- Molars – a dog has 10 molars. These surfaces are more or less flat and are used for chewing and grinding.
- Incisors – a dog has 12 small incisors that are situated between the canine teeth. These teeth are used to nibble, bite and groom.

Discuss It!

How does the teething process affect how puppies chew? What can you do to stop the chewing?

Share It!

How many teeth does your dog's breed have?

Experience It!

Talk to a breeder or a veterinarian about feeling the difference between puppy teeth and adult teeth on a model or perhaps on a gentle dog and puppy.

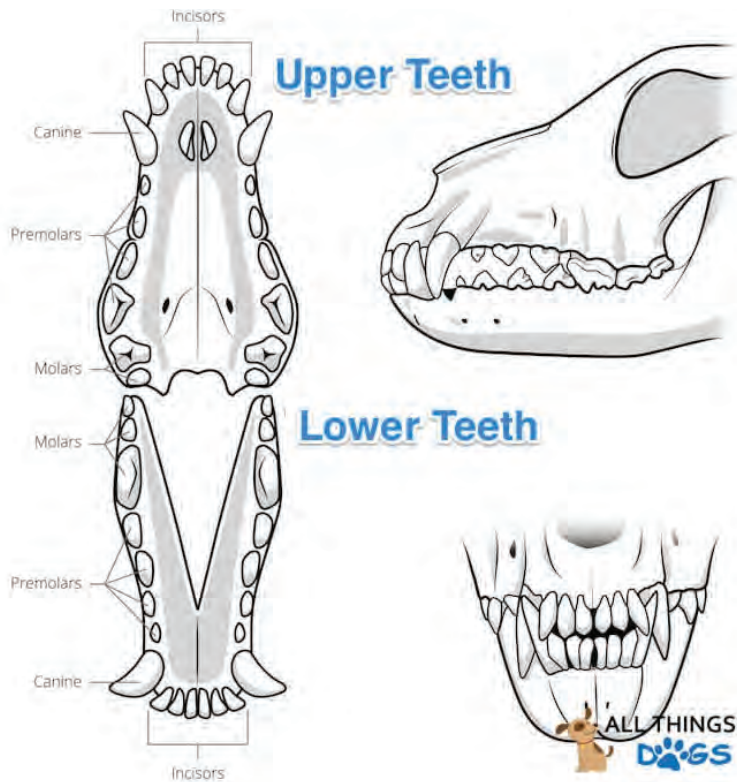


Image Credit: All Things Dog <https://www.allthingsdogs.com/dog-anatomy/>

A level bite is one in which the incisors meet edge to edge. A level bite is acceptable but not ideal. An idea bites is one where the upper incisors are slightly in front of the lower teeth. While it varies by breed, the 'scissor' bite is considered correct for most breeds. Many breeds accept a level bite, some require it, and some breeds require a reverse scissor or undershot bite. An undershot jaw is one in which the bottom jaw is longer than the upper jaw.

Share It!

What type of bite does your dog have? It is correct for its breed?

Physiology

Skin and Hair

Skin and hair make up the integumentary system. The skin is the largest and most visible organ of the dog's body, forming a protective barrier against germs and helping the dog maintain body temperature. A coat of hair covers the skin of most dogs. Hair helps insulate the dog from heat and cold and protect the skin from cuts and sunburn. Often hair is thought of only as a visual characteristic, but a dog's hair plays an important role in the dog's overall well-being.

Dogs have compound hair follicles with the number of hairs in a follicle varying by dog and breed. Each follicle contains one to five larger, longer and stiffer primary or guard hairs. Guard hairs grow through and usually conceal the undercoat. Finer, smaller and softer secondary hairs, called the undercoat, may or may not surround the guard hairs. Each guard hair has its own sweat gland, sebaceous gland (secretes an oily or waxy matter to lubricate the hair and skin) and erector muscle. When dogs raise their hackles (piloerection), they are raising their guard hairs. Secondary hairs only have a lubricating sebaceous gland.

Research It!

Is there a difference between hair and fur? Do some research and present your findings to the group.

A double coat consists of an outer coat that is resistant to weather and protects against brush and brambles and an inner (or undercoat) of softer hair for warmth and waterproofing. A dog with a single coat has no undercoat.

Dog hair grows in cycles and shedding or "blowing coat" is typically seasonal. As the hours of daylight grow shorter, hair grows thicker. Equally, as daylight hours increase, the hair begins to shed. Other factors that influence shedding include surrounding temperature, stress, hormones, nutrition and genetics.

Dogs with double coats shed their undercoats, sometimes leaving their hair looking patchy. Dogs with short hair coats shed the most, followed by dogs with double coats.

Research It!

It takes an Afghan Hound two years to grow a proper coat of hair! Are there any other breeds that take this long?

Muscular System

Muscles enable us to move. They stabilize our joints and maintain our posture; this is exactly the same for dogs. Muscle fibers receive electrical impulses from the brain through the central nervous system which tells it whether to contract or elongate, therefore creating movement. Muscular anatomy refers to three types of muscle fibres, characterized by their power to contract when stimulated.

1. Smooth Muscles

- also called involuntary, unstriated or visceral muscles
- control movement of the organs in the body cavities

2. Cardiac Muscle

- these specialized striated (striped) muscle fibres form the heart

3. Skeletal Muscles

- also called voluntary or striated muscles
- these muscles make up the rest of the musculature, each having its own function
- one-third to one-half of the dog's body weight comes from the skeletal muscles
- these muscles are attached to bones through tendons
- the dog can contract or relax skeletal muscles at will

Dog muscles are very strong and well coordinated. Like humans however, dogs can sprain and injure muscles when pushed to the limit. Use caution when training.

Cardiovascular (Circulatory) System

The dog's highly efficient cardiovascular system is comprised of the heart and blood vessels as well as the spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow.

A dog's brain typically receives about 10 to 20 percent of the blood pumped by the heart. This percent remains constant regardless of what the dog is doing. Up to 90 percent of the blood pumped out by the heart can be diverted to the muscles, providing added endurance during exercise. A dog's circulation typically increases muscle blood flow 20 to 30 times during normal exercise.

Dogs cool themselves by panting and do not sweat through the skin like humans. Dogs sweat some through their footpads.

The normal resting heart rate for most adult dogs is 60 to 160 beats per minute. Puppies usually have heart rates of up to 180 beats per minute until they are around one year old. Larger dogs have slower heart rates than smaller dogs. Dogs that are in good physical condition have lower heart rates than dogs of similar age and size that are not in good shape. Abnormal heart rates, unless caused by exercise or other tangible factors, may indicate a health problem in your dog.

Respiratory System

The respiratory system is a system by which oxygen is taken into (inspiration) a dog's body, an exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen takes place in the lungs and then the dog exhales carbon dioxide (expiration). The upper respiratory tract includes:

- nasal passages
- throat
- larynx
- trachea

The lower respiratory tract is made up of the bronchi (air passages leading from the trachea to the lungs) and the lungs.

The respiratory rate for an average dog at rest is 10 to 30 breaths per minute.

Have you heard a Pug, Bulldog or Pekinese snort and breathe through their mouths? When they are sleeping, they often snore. That is because of their brachycephalic head. These short-nosed dogs have a narrowed and shortened respiratory tract. They can easily become overheated because they have a tough time increasing their rate of panting. Owners must take extra precautions during hot weather to make sure these breeds stay cool and have plenty of water.

Some dogs suddenly begin wheezing, honking or snorting after they eat or drink too fast or when they get overly excited or tugged on a leash too hard. This temporary condition is called reverse sneezing (also called pharyngeal spasms) and is usually caused when an elongated soft palate become temporarily misaligned. Reverse sneezing usually only lasts a few seconds or minutes, ending when the dog's attention is diverted or after it swallows a few times. To help your dog end his reverse sneezing episode, induce swallowing by gently rubbing its throat or by closing off the nostrils with your fingers, forcing your dog to breathe through its mouth.

Nervous System

The purpose of the nervous system is to keep the body in touch with and responsive to its environment. This system regulates most activities of a dog's body, conveys sensations and coordinate movements. There are two major divisions:

1. Central Nervous System (CNS)

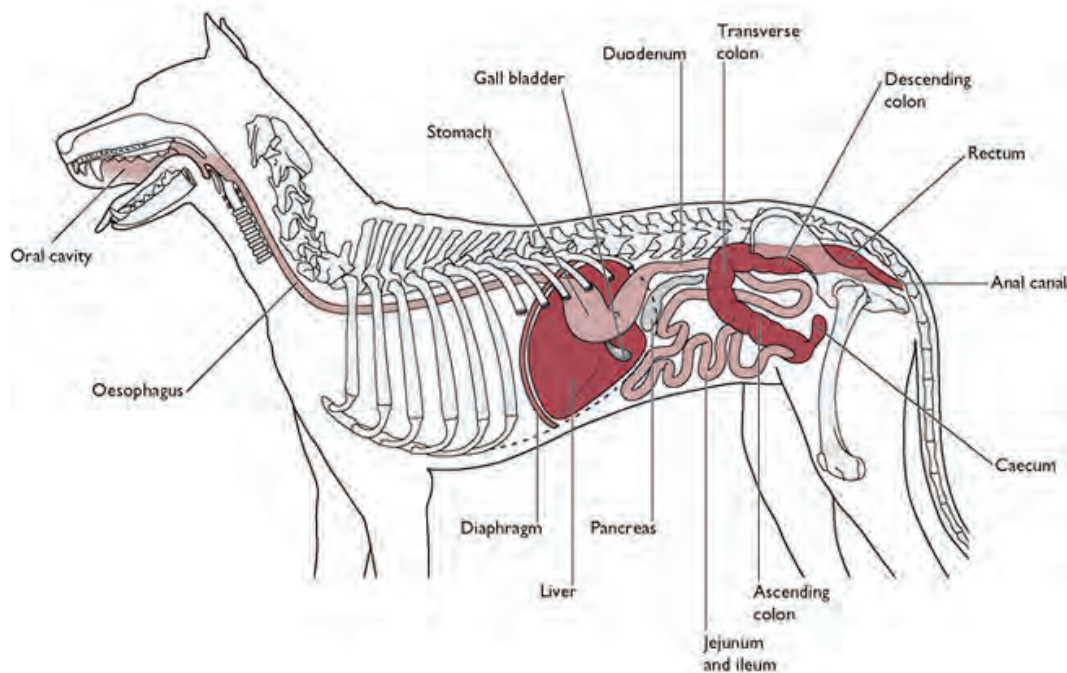
- consists of the brain and spinal cord
- the brain controls most of the body's voluntary and involuntary activities

2. Peripheral Nervous System

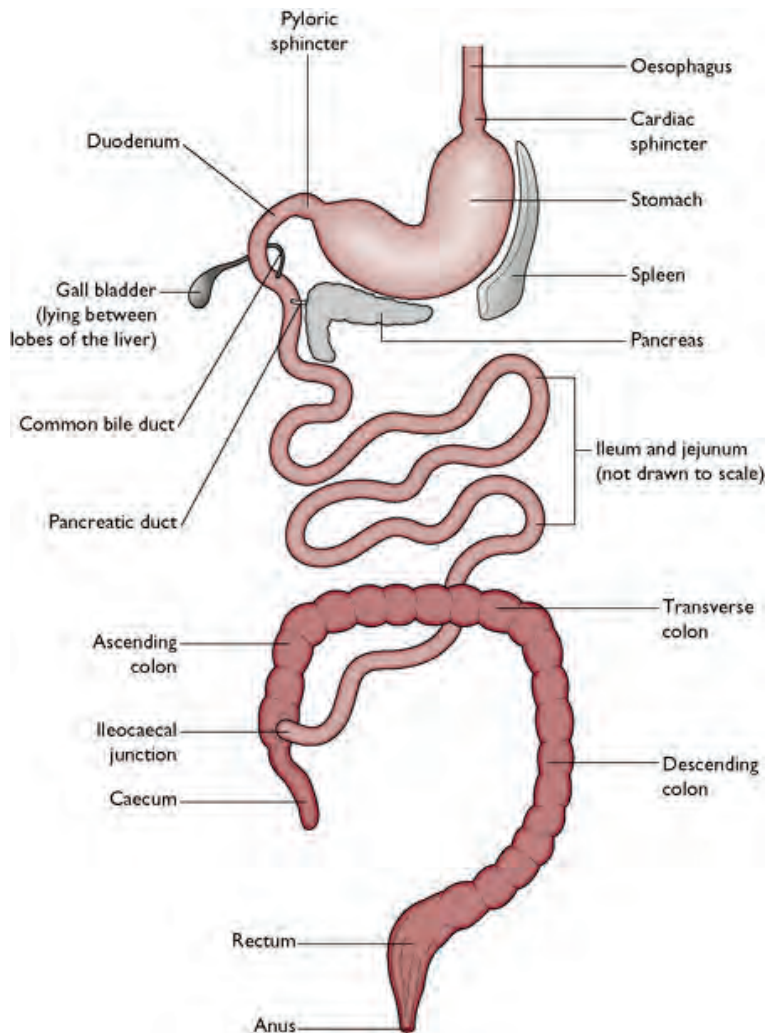
- includes all of the nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord
- receives sensory input, transmits it to the central nervous system and then transmits the proper response commands to the organs and tissues

Digestive System

The digestive system is the means by which food that has been eaten is reduced into nutrients a dog's body can absorb and use or turn into waste that a dog can excrete. It also includes hormones and enzymes that assist in the digestion of food. The gastrointestinal tract includes the alimentary canal, beginning at the mouth and ending at the anus.



Organs of the digestive system of a dog



Organs of the digestive system of a dog

Image Credits: Veterian Key <https://veteriankey.com/digestive-system/>

Different kinds of food are converted into different nutrients.

Carbohydrates → Simple sugars

Fats → Fatty acids

Proteins → Amino acids

Chewing (also called mastication), reduces the food into smaller pieces which helps the action of the digestive enzymes. Chewing also causes food to mix with saliva, making the food easier to swallow. Dogs have four pairs of salivary glands. While some saliva is always present in the mouth, secretions increase at the sight and smell of food.

Food moves from a dog's mouth to the stomach through the esophagus.

Once food reaches the dog's stomach, gastric juices break the food down. Most of the absorption of food nutrients following digestion occurs in the small intestine. After this absorption, the large intestine moves the feces (a combination of undigested food and water) to the anus.

Semi-moist foods usually take about 9 hours to digest while dry dog foods can take up to 16 hours before being digested. The more fibrous the food, the faster it moves through the digestive system. The amount of water your dog drinks influences how much the food swells, expanding the intestine which stimulates the muscular contractions of peristalsis, forcing the food through the intestine. Like humans, some dogs have more active bowels than others, causing the food to digest and pass through the intestines at a faster rate.

Endocrine System

The endocrine system is made up of glands and other tissues that make hormones such as thyroid, insulin, testosterone and estrogen. Hormones are released directly into the bloodstream and can create immediate behavioural changes. They are produced in response to specific stimuli to create a specific action. For example, a dog that is confronted with an extremely stressful situation releases hormones that trigger the "flight or fight" response.

Urinary System

The urinary system is comprised of:

- kidneys
- ureters
- bladder
- urethra

Kidneys filter waste products from the blood, maintain the body's water and electrolyte balance and produce the hormone erythropoietin, which stimulates the production of red blood cells.

The urethra passes through a bony structure, called the os penis, in male dogs. Dogs can get cystitis (bladder infection) and bladder and urethral stones.

Look It Up!

What is the "flight or fight" response? Is this something that is unique to dogs? If you are unsure, research what this response is and share your findings. Can you think of a situation that would cause an animal to flight or fight?

Reproductive System

Female

The major reproductive organs of the female dog include:

- ovaries
- uterus
- vagina
- vulva
- mammary glands

The ovaries produce ova (also called eggs) and the reproductive hormones estrogen and progesterone. The uterus is Y-shaped and consists of two distinct horns and cervix.

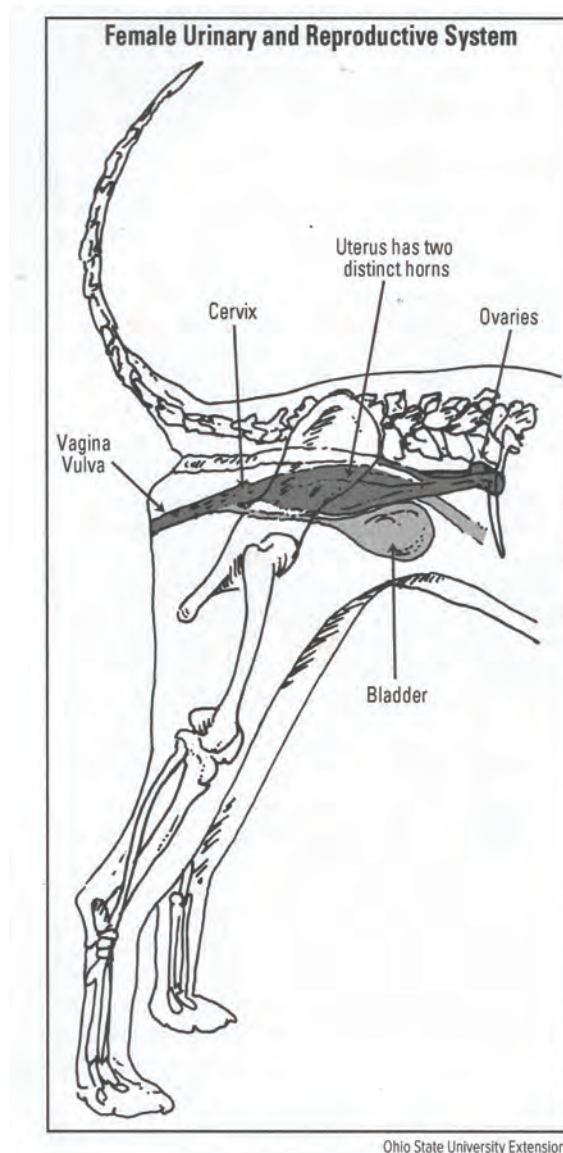


Image Credit: Dog Resource Handbook, Ohio State University Extension

Male

The major reproductive organs of the male dog include:

- testes (testicles)
- epididymis and spermatic cord
- scrotum
- prostate gland
- penis
- prepuce

Normal descent of testicles usually begins by 10 days following birth and should be complete by 6 to 8 weeks of age. Before that time, they may be up or down. When mature, both testes should be similar in size. Cryptorchidism is when one or both testicles fail to descend into the scrotum. This is a hereditary defect. It is important to have cryptorchid dogs neutered because they are more prone to testicular cancer.

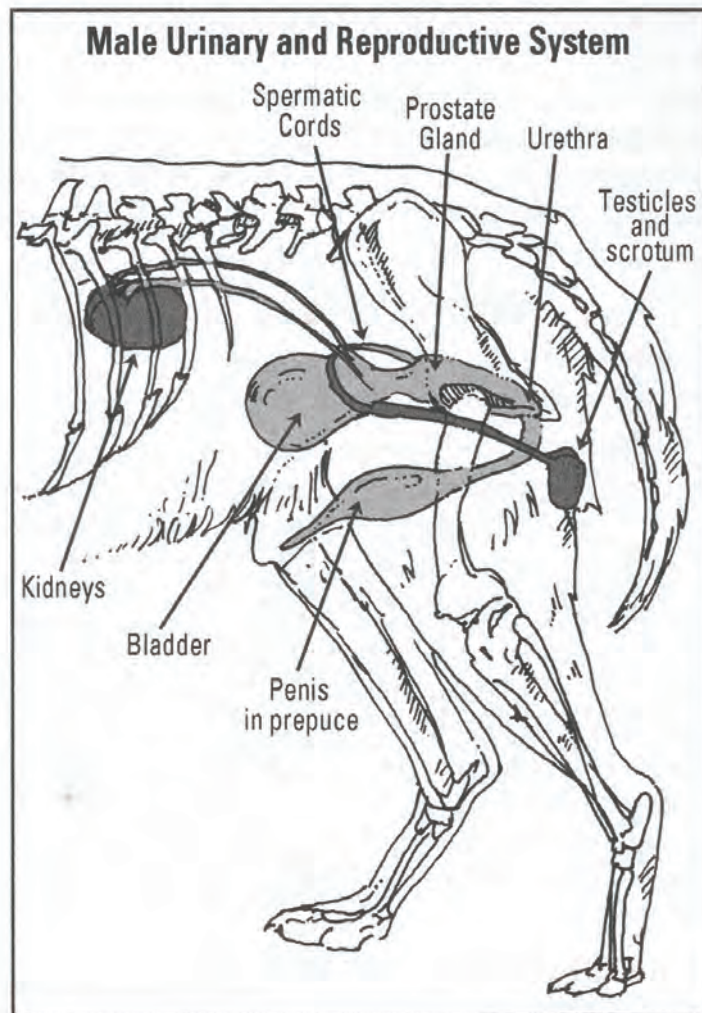


Image Credit: Dog Resource Handbook, Ohio State University Extension

The Senses

Touch

In newborn puppies, touch is the best-developed sense and is the first sense that a dog develops. The entire body of the dog, including the pads of the feet, is covered with touch-sensitive nerve endings that feel heat and cold, pain and vibration. Touch is central to communication for dogs. From the time a mother nuzzles and cleans her pups, dogs use touch to demonstrate affection, establish dominance or submission and explore the world. Touch is also critical in your communication with your dog. You can excite or calm your dog, simply by putting your hands on your dog.

One example of a touch receptor on a dog is whiskers. Whiskers (also called vibrissae) are special touch-sensitive hairs arranged in tufts, located along each side of the muzzle, under the jaws and above the eyes of a dog. Whiskers are sensitive to vibrations in air currents. As the air moves, the whiskers vibrate, helping the dog sense the presence, size, shape and texture of nearby objects. Whiskers above a dog's eyes help protect the eyes by causing them to blink whenever the whiskers are touched. Whiskers along the muzzle help the dog judge the width of any opening, while the whiskers under the jaw tell the dog how close it is to the ground.

Taste

Dogs have taste buds (specialized papillae) located on the front and sides of their lips, tongue and mouth. The sense of taste is not as refined in dogs as it is in humans. Humans have about six times the number of taste buds compared to dogs. The majority of taste buds in dogs respond to foods that contain sugar with the second largest number responding to acids which are plentiful in meat and meat by-products.

Smell

Also called olfaction, dogs have a much greater sense of smell than do humans. Smell is a dog's most sophisticated sense. Dogs have over 220 million scent receptors in their noses. Humans have only 5 million. A dog's ability to detect scents is one million times greater than that of humans as shown by the ability of a tracking dog to follow scent trails.

A dog sniffs the ground, other dogs, objects, etc. because it wants to get the most out of detecting odours. Dogs sniff by inhaling and exhaling in short, rapid exchanges of air. This air is forced into a nasal pocket instead of moving into the lungs. Scent receptors in the nasal pockets interact with the inhaled air, producing nerve impulses that are interpreted as smells.

Dogs also have a Jacobson's organ (vomeronasal organ), a fluid-filled sac located above the roof of their mouths. This organ sends olfactory receptor cells to the section of the hypothalamus associated with sexual, social and feeding behaviours and is also significant in the detection of body scents (pheromones).

The senses of smell and taste work together with the odour attracting the dog's attention at the first and then the taste buds taking over.

Hearing

The ears of dogs are mobile, allowing them to scan their surroundings to detect sounds. Dogs may locate a sound with one ear and then use both ears to capture and direct the sound waves. Dogs have the ability to hear sounds four times farther away than humans can. Dogs can hear higher pitches than humans can. Most people can detect sounds with wavelengths up to 20,000 cycles per second while dogs can hear sounds with wavelengths up to 40,000 cycles per second. A dog can detect a source of sound in six-one-hundredths of a second.

Sight

Dogs see things much differently than humans, mainly because of differences in rods and cones in their eyes. Some of the differences are:

- Visual acuity – dogs do not have the ability to see detail as clearly as humans do. It is estimated that dogs have about 20/75 vision meaning they can see at 20 feet (6 metres) what we could see clearly at 75 feet (23 metres)
- Night vision – dogs can see much better in dimmer light and at night than humans can. The tapetum lucidum (found in the eye), which humans don't have, reflects unabsorbed light to increase vision in dim light. This also makes a dog's eyes seem to glow in the dark
- Colour – dogs see only part of the colours in the spectrum because they have dichromatic vision. This means they can probably see yellow, green and blue but cannot see the longer wavelengths or orange or red light. This occurs because they have two cone cell types rather than three, like humans
- Movement – dogs are more sensitive to movement than humans are and detect motion better than us. Dogs also see flickering light better than we do. This means they may see television as a series of moving frames rather than as a continuous scene.

What are rods and cones?

Dog and human eyes function in the same way – light passes through the cornea to the pupil which changes size depending on how bright the light is. Light travels through the pupil to the lens, which focuses the light rays on the retina. The surface of the retina is covered with two types of light-sensitive cells, called rods and cones, that transmit electric impulses to the optic nerve and then on to the brain.

Rods are especially good at processing low light and motion. Cones are responsible for seeing colour and detail. Many of the differences between dog and human vision can be explained by differences in the number and arrangement of rods and cones.

The range of vision in dogs depends on the shape of their heads. The dolichocephalic (long head) breeds of dogs have laterally placed eyes. Their range of vision is 270 degrees. They have limited binocular vision, poor depth perception and problems with focusing on close objects. The brachycephalic breeds of dogs (short head) have frontally placed eyes, giving them a field of vision of about 200 degrees. The human field of vision averages just 100 degrees. Humans have better binocular vision than dogs but poorer lateral vision.

Share It!

Because there are so many different systems in the canine body, have the group split up and research at least one interesting fact about a system. Present findings to the group.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Whiskers are a touch receptor on a dog. Examine your dog (or a friend's dog) to see where the whiskers are on their face. Draw your dog's face, including all of the whiskers your dog has. Be prepared to show your drawing at your next meeting and discuss all of the places whiskers are found on the face and how this helps your dog.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Sometimes jaw problems can cause major issues for dogs. Research to find a common jaw problem that dogs can have. Find out why it happens, what/if there is a cure/surgery for it and if it affects certain breeds. If possible, find pictures and present your findings to the group at the next meeting.

ACTIVITY #1

PIN THE TAIL ON THE DOG

DO

Time: 20 Minutes

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Tape
- Blindfold
- A hat, box or container for names of dog organs

Instructions:

- Hang a picture of a dog securely on a wall
- Have the group stand in a line about one metre away from the picture
- One by one, blindfold each person
- Have them pull out a piece of paper with the names of dog's internal organs. Have a volunteer read what is on the piece of paper. Then spin them around three times and point them in the direction of the dog picture and let them pin it on the picture
- Mark the spot with the member's name where they placed the paper
- Have them take off their blindfold to see where they placed the paper and decide if its in the right spot or not. If not, let them move it to the proper spot
- Internal organs that could be written on pieces of paper to use for pinning on the dog:
 - Stomach
 - Spleen
 - Kidney
 - Intestine
 - Liver
 - Heart
 - Lung
 - Trachea
 - Esophagus
 - keep adding to the list!

REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify where internal organs are located within a dog.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was this activity easy or hard?• If you thought it was hard, was it because of being dizzy or was it because you weren't sure where to pin the names on the dog?• Are there any parts that you are confused about?• As a dog owner, why might you need to know parts of a dog?

ACTIVITY #2

FEEL TRIP

DO	<p>Time: 15 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A calm, friendly dog that is comfortable being touched and stroked• Diagram of a dog's skeleton <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guide member to feel and explore the parts of a dog, using a script like the one below. Be slow and take time to explore and discuss what the members find. <p>IMPORTANT: If the dog appears agitated at any point, give the dog a break. Safety is important!</p>
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify the skeletal system of a dog.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important to know about different dog body parts?• Why is it important to be aware of the comfort and mood of the dog in this activity?• How does the dog's body help them to perform special tasks?

Instruction script to guide members:

“Start at the top of the head, just around the neck. Feel the vertebrae that protect their spinal cord. As you continue to explore down the dog's back, can you feel the separation between each vertebrae? Feel all the way down to the bone of the tail.”

“Find the dog's shoulder blades. Follow it down towards the forechest. You'll find that the shoulder blade ends in a joint that connects to the front leg.”

“Start to explore the side of the dog by feeling the ribs. Feel each rib and then circle to the front of the chest where you’ll feel the sternum. As the dog breathes, can you feel the rib cage expanding and contracting?”

“Return to the back. Explore the dog, near their rump. Can you find two bumps on either side of their backbone? Those are the hipbones.”

“Now for the legs. First, generally feel for the differences between the front and the back legs. Find some of their joints. How does the joint alignment hold the dog differently than your joints hold you? One way is that dogs walk on their toes. Can you find their heel?”

“On the front leg, around the foot, can you feel many little bones? These are called carpal bones. As you move around, you’ll feel many small pieces and eventually reach the toes. How are these toes different from yours?”

“Move on to the back leg and find the knee. Gently feel around. Can you find the patella or kneecap? How is it shaped?”

“Follow the bone upward from the knee. This big bone has the same as the big bone above your knee. Feel around. Where does it connect to the pelvic bone? Then travel downwards again to below the knee. How many bones do you feel? Feel down to the ankle of the dog. This is called the hock. Move behind the hock and you’ll find a thick bit of skin, just like around the back of your ankle and heel. As in humans, this big tendon helps move the foot.”

“Now, the entire time you have been feeling for bones, you’ve been feeling something else. It’s the coat!”

ACTIVITY #3

WALKING ANATOMY LESSON

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masking tape• Markers• Diagram of the bones in a dog (found in this section) and of a human skeleton• A calm, friendly dog who is comfortable with being touched and stroked <p>IMPORTANT: If the dog appears agitated at any point, give the dog a break. Safety is important!</p> <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write the name of each bone twice, on two different pieces of masking tape• Have members stick one of the labels on the dog, where you would find that bone• Stick the corresponding one to the same bone on themselves
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify where bones are located within a dog and on themselves.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important to know about different parts of a dog's body?• How is the dog's body different from ours?• What can a dog do that a human can't?

SECTION 3B – CANINE HEALTH

Setting Objectives

Understanding how your dog's body works, what health problems it could have and how to take care of your dog is essential to its overall health.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To be able to tell if a dog is healthy
- To be able to identify symptoms and signs of sick animals
- To learn when a dog needs to be taken to a veterinarian
- To understand available treatments and protocols
- To learn about serious diseases, vaccinations and preventative medicine
- To learn and identify common parasites
- To practice checking a dog's vital signs and recognizing medical emergencies
- To understand the importance of an overall wellness plan for dogs
- To learn about certain zoonotic diseases

Roll Calls

- Name one sign a dog might not be feeling well.
- Name one reason why the health of your dog is important to you.
- What characteristics should a dog show if it is healthy?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 40 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Wellness Program • A Healthy Dog Diseases Prevented by Vaccination Internal Parasites External Parasites Zoonosis Dental Care Anal Glands Bloat First Aid Canine First Aid Kit <u>Activities</u> Health or Not Parasites: Who Am I?	120 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Your Veterinarian	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Excerpts in this section courtesy of Ohio State University Extension

Learning about your dog's anatomy and physiology and about health problems common to their breed, or to the breed it most represents, gives you information that is useful should your dog become sick. Establish a relationship with your veterinarian so he or she knows you and your dog and is receptive to your questions and concerns. Establish a year-round wellness program to keep you and your pet safe from diseases and to keep your pet as healthy as possible.

Handle and examine your dog regularly to make your veterinarian's job easier.

Wellness Program

Work together with your veterinarian to establish a year-round wellness program that goes beyond the annual physical examinations and associated vaccinations and medications. A wellness program involves continuous monitoring by you and periodic monitoring by your veterinarian for the purpose of developing preventative care strategies that enhance the health and welfare of your dog. These strategies should include the following:

- Active involvement with your veterinarian. Annual visits, or more frequently if recommended by your veterinarian, should be made to assess the physical and behavioural health and well-being of your dog, including regularly scheduled examinations and preventative care.



Have your dog examined at least once a year by your veterinarian to make sure your dog is healthy.

Image Credit: Blue Cross Veterinary Clinic <https://www.bluecrossvetltd.com/>

- Wellness programs should include:
 - regular vaccinations
 - parasite prevention and control
 - selecting screening for common diseases and conditions
 - behavioural evaluation
 - preventative medical, dental, nutritional and behavioural care, including environment enrichment
 - assessment of genetic health when appropriate
- Wellness visits should include a thorough physical examination that assesses nutritional and oral health, screens for selection infectious and parasitic diseases and evaluate general behaviour.
- Dogs must be vaccinated for rabies in accordance with provincial laws. Other vaccinations should be given at appropriate intervals as determined by your veterinarian.
- Internal and external parasite prevention and control programs should be implemented in accordance with local risks and the life stage of the dog.
- Maintain your dog’s hair coat and nail quality through regular grooming, keeping in mind that excessive grooming or bathing, including the use of harsh products, may be harmful.
- Feed your dog a high-quality diet, whether purchased or homemade.
- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water at all times. Bring water from home or buy bottled water to give to your dog when travelling. Dogs should not drink unfamiliar water as it could give them diarrhea.
- Prevent your dog from hunting or eating other animals (unless the purpose of your dog is a hunting dog)
- Practice regular hand washing! This is the best way to prevent the transmission of diseases. Wash your hands after petting your dog and don’t pet your dog while you are eating.

Research It!

Find out how much a yearly check-up at your veterinary clinic will cost.

A Healthy Dog

It is important to establish a close bond with your pet and to know how your pet acts under normal conditions when it is healthy. You can then recognize abnormal behaviour and detect illness early:

Signs of a healthy dog:

- Has a shiny hair coat free of bald areas. The hair is neither brittle nor dull. Your dog does not scratch, dig, bite, lick, gnaw or pull at his fur excessively.
- Is active and alert, aware of and interested in its surroundings and appears happy.
- Has a good appetite and eats its food without trouble.
- Drinks water regularly but not large amounts too often.
- Does not have bad breath.
- Has pink gums and tongue.



Check your dog's gums and tongue to make sure they are pink. Pale gums and tongue may be a sign that your dog is anemic.

Image Credit: The Spruce Pets <https://www.thesprucepets.com>

- Has clean eyes without any discharge. The eyes are not red or inflamed.
- Does not continually scratch its ears or shake its head.
- Has clean ears and no foul odour coming from the ear canal.
- Has a moist nose with no nasal discharge.
- Does not limp or continually hold a foot up.
- Has a solid stool and defecates once or twice daily.

- Does not strain when urinating. The urine is free of blood.
- Has normal breathing.
- Does not continually cough or sneeze.
- Has a clean genital area, with the anus not matted or dirty.
- Has a normal body temperature of 38.1°C (100.5°F) to 39.2°C (102.5°F)

Some signs of an unhealthy or sick dog might include:

- Change in mood
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargic, sluggish, depressed
- Pale gums and/or tongue
- Irritable
- Pink or red inflamed eyes
- Nasal discharge
- Eye discharge
- Constant scratching or digging at ears or yelping when ears are touched
- Constant panting, raspy breathing
- Increased drinking
- Difficulty getting up or lying down
- Diarrhea or change in colour or consistency of stool
- Vomiting
- Trembling
- Coughing
- Restlessness
- Hiding
- Afraid of loud noises or bright lights
- Persistent bad breath
- Excessive drooling
- Loss of hair, open sores
- Noticeable weight gain or loss without a change in diet

Do It!

Regularly handling your dog helps when taking your dog to the veterinarian, the groomer or anywhere else that someone other than you might be handling your dog. Review the 'Signs of a Healthy Dog' list and check off everything that you can give your dog a passing grade on.

Discuss It!

There are many ways to gather information but you have to make sure you are getting information from reliable sources. What do you feel are the best places for credible information about dogs? What sources of information should be avoided?

Diseases Prevented by Vaccination

A vaccine is a preparation that contains an antigen consisting of killed or weakened disease-causing microorganisms (bacteria or viruses). Vaccines are used to prevent or treat infectious diseases by giving immunity against the disease caused by the microorganisms. A vaccine contains modified bacteria or viruses that do not cause the disease but stimulate the body's immune system to manufacture protection against the disease. Vaccination is the process of injecting a vaccine into a dog.

Consult with your veterinarian to determine which vaccinations your puppy or dog should receive and how often they should be given. Your veterinarian determines whether a vaccine for a particular disease is a core vaccine by considering the severity of the disease, the geographic location, the risk of transmission to the dog, the potential for a certain infection to be zoonotic (transferred to humans) and the performance of the vaccine. Examples of core vaccinations typically include distemper, canine adenovirus (infectious canine hepatitis) and canine parvovirus. It is law in Ontario for dogs to receive the rabies vaccine, also a core vaccine for dogs.

Noncore vaccines are reserved for dogs with individual needs because their lifestyle represents a reasonable risk of infection. Examples of noncore vaccinations might include canine parainfluenza and Bordetellosis (both cause kennel cough), leptospirosis, coronavirus and Borreliosis (causes Lyme disease).

Vaccination Timeline for puppies:

- Core vaccination at six to eight weeks of age
- Booster shots given at 10 to 12 weeks and 14 to 16 weeks of age
- Rabies vaccination given at 16 to 26 weeks of age
- Rabies booster shot at one year of age

Consult with your veterinarian to determine the vaccination protocol to follow once your dog has reached one year of age.

Rabies

Rabies is a viral infection that attacks the central nervous system in all warm-blooded animals. The most common carriers are raccoon, followed by bats, skunks and foxes. The infected animal salivates profusely because he cannot swallow. The virus is released from the salivary glands and

can be transmitted to other by a bite or through an open wound. The disease attacks the nerve tissues, results in paralysis and death. That is why preventative vaccination is a must.

Animals affected with rabies behave in an erratic manner. They appear dull or are very wild, frantic or furious. They may appear weak, have seizures, drool and have difficulty swallowing. Rabies affects the central nervous and respiratory systems.

The rabies virus can be transmitted to humans when the saliva from an affected animal comes into contact with broken skin, such as a scratch or a bite. Rabies is rare in humans today because of pets receiving vaccinations to prevent contracting the disease. Once the symptoms or rabies develop, the disease is fatal. If a person has been bitten by a domestic animal that does not have proof of a rabies vaccination, or is bit by a wild animal, the bite should be cleaned with soap and water immediately and then the person should seek medical attention. The incubation period for rabies varies greatly and may take anywhere from a week to several months to appear. Once symptoms have developed, there is no treatment or cure. Preventative treatment can be given to suspected rabies cases and bite victims if it is administered before the first sign or symptom.

Do not approach any domestic animal that is acting strangely or confused and never approach a wild animal.

Coronavirus (CCV)

Canine coronavirus is a highly contagious viral infection specific to dogs. This virus reproduces inside the upper two-thirds of the small intestine as well as local lymph nodes. A coronavirus infection by itself is typically considered to be a mild disease with sporadic symptoms or none at all. However, if this infection occurs with parvovirus, or an infection caused by other intestinal pathogens, the outcomes can be very serious. Puppies are much more susceptible than adult dogs and are at a higher risk of developing serious complications and dying with this virus. Puppies can quickly become dehydrated as a result of vomiting and diarrhea as well as develop sever enteritis (inflammation of the small intestine).

Initial symptoms may include depression and loss of appetite. Infected dogs will vomit and have diarrhea. The diarrhea is foul-smelling, varies from soft to watery and is yellow-green or orange in colour. Fever is uncommon.

Coronavirus is transmitted by exposure to feces or oral secretions from an infected dog. The virus can remain in the body and shed into the stool for as long as six months.

Treatment includes controlling vomiting and diarrhea, and keeping the dog hydrated. Although not commonly given, consult with your veterinarian about an available vaccine.

Distemper (CDV)

Distemper is a disease caused by a virus that attacks every tissues in a dog's body. The disease is contagious and can cause death.

Symptoms of distemper include discharges from the eyes (ocular discharges) and from the nose (nasal discharges) that become yellow and sticky. Fever, vomiting, coughing and diarrhea are also symptoms. The dog may also show loss of appetite and depression. Severe cases progress to the central nervous system, causing severe muscle twitching, seizures and paralysis. There is little hope of recovery once distemper affects the central nervous system. Even if a dog does recover, it might continue to have jerking muscle contractions or seizures indefinitely.

The distemper vaccine is given as a core vaccination.

Hepatitis (Canine Adenovirus - CAV)

Canine hepatitis is a disease of the liver, kidneys or other body organs and the central nervous system. The virus is spread by body fluids, including urine and nasal discharge. The primary source of transmission is direct contact with an infected animal. Other modes of transmission are through contaminated food and water bowls, dog runs, crates, people's hands, boots and so forth.

Hepatitis symptoms are high fever, depression, vomiting, respiratory disease, lack of appetite and dehydration. Hepatitis is serious in young animals. Recovered animals may be affected with chronic illnesses or eye disease. This disease causes rapid death in young dogs. Older dogs take a long time to recover. The resulting bluish tint to the eyes disappears very slowly. The canine adenovirus cannot cause hepatitis in people.

The canine adenovirus vaccine is one of the core vaccinations given to dogs.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that infects both animals and humans. There are many different strains of the infecting organism, which is a spirochete (a group of spiral-shaped bacteria). Vaccination against one strain does not protect against the other strains. Vaccines for dogs offer six to eight months of protection.

The disease is transmitted by contact with urine from an infected animal, including dogs, raccoons, squirrels, skunks and cattle. It is also spread indirectly through exposure to contaminated water, food and bedding.

Symptoms of leptospirosis include fever, refusal of food, weakness, muscle pain, bruising, vomiting and increased thirst. Leptospirosis attacks the liver, kidneys and central nervous system. It is expensive to treat. Recovered animals act as carriers of this disease.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease which means it can be transmitted to humans. Symptoms in humans include fever, headache, muscular aches, inflammation of the eyelids and occasionally jaundice. If left untreated, it can cause kidney damage or liver failure. Prevention is by vaccination of the dog, sanitation of contaminated areas and hand washing.

Parvovirus (CPV)

Parvovirus is a highly contagious viral disease caused by a pathogen called canine parvovirus (CPV) and variations of the original strain. It is transmitted through the feces or fluids of an infected dog and is present in the feces for up to three weeks after infestation. The virus also lives on kennel floors, food and water bowls, boots, clothing and other inanimate objects.

Puppies are very susceptible to parvovirus. The virus attacks the gastrointestinal tract of the dog and possibly the heart muscle. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, bloody or dark stool and dehydration. Fever, loss of appetite and depression may also occur.

This disease progresses very quickly. Death can occur as early as two days after the onset of the disease, especially in young puppies. Prompt veterinary care is essential to increase an infected puppy's or dog's chance of survival.

The parvovirus is one of the core vaccinations given to dogs.

Kennel Cough Complex (Acute Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis)

Kennel cough, also known as Bordetella, is a highly contagious respiratory disease transmitted from an infected dog to a healthy dog much in the same way that human colds are spread. The major symptom of kennel cough is a harsh hacking cough. It is often described as sounding like the dog has a bone caught in its throat. The dog may also gag and retch, coughing up thick, white foam. Appetite and temperature remain normal. Kennel cough usually runs its course in one to two weeks. The primary risk is for a secondary infection of bacterial pneumonia. Vaccination decreases the dog's chance of infection and reduces the severity.

Parainfluenza (CPIV)

Canine parainfluenza virus (CPIV), a highly contagious respiratory virus, is considered the most common viral agent of acute canine infectious tracheobronchitis (kennel cough). This common virus will cause mild symptoms, which may include coughing, sneezing, runny eyes, low-grade fever, nasal discharge, lack of energy and/or loss of appetite. CPIV is excreted from the respiratory tract of infected dogs for up to two weeks after infection with symptoms typically lasting less than six days unless there is involvement of other bacteria, which is often the case. This virus is usually transmitted through the air and spreads rapidly in kennels or shelters populated with large numbers of dogs. While CPIV and canine influenza have resembling respiratory symptoms, these viruses are unrelated and require difference vaccines.

Canine Influenza

Canine influenza, also known as "dog flu," is a contagious respiratory disease caused by an influenza A H3N8 influenza virus. This is a disease of dogs with no evidence that this virus infects humans.

Signs of canine influenza can include coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge and fever. Some dogs show no signs, while some have severe infections. About 80% of infected dogs have a mild form of the disease. Severe infections are characterized by the onset of hemorrhagic pneumonia. Do not expose a dog showing signs of this virus to other dogs. The virus can be spread to other dogs by direct contact with air-borne respiratory secretions from infected dogs, by uninfected dogs coming into contact with contaminated objects and by moving contaminated materials or objects between infected and uninfected dogs.

Clean and disinfect hands, surfaces, clothing and equipment after exposure to dogs showing signs or respiratory disease. If you suspect your dog has this virus, a veterinarian can tell you if testing is appropriate to confirm the disease. Approved vaccines are available.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is transmitted by ticks infected with a type of bacteria called spirochete. These ticks are carried by white-tailed deer.

Symptoms of Lyme disease in dogs usually appear two to five months after exposure and include a fever between 39.4°C (103°F) and 40.6°C (105°F), lameness, swelling of the joints, lethargy and loss of appetite. Arthritis may result if the dog is not promptly diagnosed and treated. Dogs typically do not develop a rash or the ring-like lesion at the site of the bite as seen in humans.

Lyme disease in dogs is treated using several broad-spectrum antibiotics. The earlier it is detected, the more successful the treatment. Prevention measures are accomplished by removing ticks before they attach or within 24 hours after they attach, as well as by using a flea and tick preventative. Vaccines are available for prevention of Lyme disease in dogs.

Humans can get Lyme disease by improperly removing an infected tick from a dog or from an infected tick leaving the dog and attaching itself to the person. Ticks infected with Lyme disease can also attach themselves to people. Symptoms of Lyme disease in humans include a red, ring-like lesion developing at the site of a tick bite with 2 to 32 days, tiredness, fever and chills, headache, muscle and/or joint pain and swollen lymph glands. Diagnosis of Lyme disease can be difficult because tests are not necessarily accurate.

Internal Parasites

Internal parasites commonly found in dogs are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms and heartworms. Giardia is also an internal parasite that sometimes infects dogs.

When you get a new puppy or dog, take it and a small specimen (sample) of its stool to your veterinarian. Ask your veterinarian for the best time to bring in the stool sample because the life cycles of parasites determine when eggs are visible. Take the specimen to the vet in a small, clean plastic sandwich bag. Your veterinarian will examine the stool sample using a microscope to determine if internal parasites are present. Then he or she will administer the amount and type of deworming medication needed.

Check It Out!

What vaccines has your dog received? Check your dog's animal health record. Are there any diseases that your dog has been vaccinated for that aren't listed here?

The medication used for worming dogs acts by either killing the worms or causing them to go into a stupor which releases their hold and allows them to pass through in the stool.

If you have a female you are going to breed, she should be worm free before breeding. Otherwise, some of the internal parasites can be passed on to her puppies. Prevention is the best policy.

Roundworms

Roundworms (also called ascarids), are the most common of the internal parasites. The species common to dogs is *Toxocara canis*. Signs of roundworm infections include vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and a pot-belly appearance.

Eggs hatch in the intestines, enter the bloodstream as young embryos and then migrate through all the body tissues. They eventually migrate back to the intestines where they develop to maturity, lay eggs and start the cycle again. Adult ascarids look like thin spaghetti, are up to 17.5cm long and may be either vomited or passed in the stool.

Many puppies are born with roundworms that they have received from their mother.



Image Credit: Today's Veterinary Practice <https://todaysveterinarypractice.com/roundworms-in-dogs/>

Roundworm eggs can be passed from dogs to humans through dirt and other environments. Children are especially susceptible because they play in dirt, which could be contaminated, and then put their hands in their mouths. The ingested eggs turn into larvae which migrate throughout the body causing damage to various organs. Symptoms only occur when the infestation is heavy. Hand washing after contact with dirt or pets is the best prevention.

Reach Out!

Invite a veterinarian to your meeting to discuss internal parasites - how to detect them and how to treat them. If time permits, have the veterinarian discuss external parasites as well.

Hookworms

Hookworms are hair-like in shape and are 0.6cm to 1.25cm long. Hookworm larvae can be ingested from the environment or can penetrate the skin. They can be transmitted to puppies through their mother's milk.



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

Inside the dog, adult hookworms migrate to the small intestine where they attach themselves to the intestinal wall and suck blood and tissue fluids. When hookworms move, bleeding continues at the attachment site. Bleeding into the intestines causes the stool to be black and tar-like and the dog becomes anemic due to blood loss. Heavy infestations of hookworms can be life threatening, especially in young puppies.

Hookworm larvae infect humans by penetrating the skin, causing swelling, pustules (small bumps on the skin that contain fluid or pus), redness and other signs of infection. Preventative measures include not going barefoot in infected areas.

Whipworms

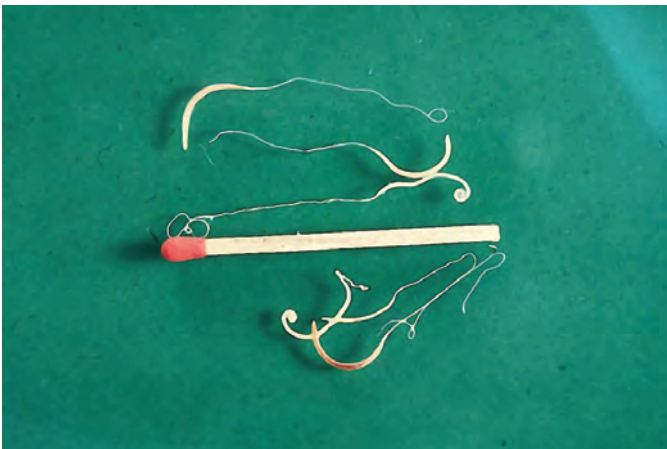


Image Credit: The Spruce Pets <https://www.thesprucepets.com>

The intestinal whipworm of dogs, *Trichuris vulpis*, measures 5cm to 7.5cm in length and is thicker on the posterior (rear) end, giving it a whip-like appearance. Whipworm eggs hatch in the intestines, burrow into the wall of the small intestine and then move into the large intestine. Adults are found in the cecum and sometimes in the colon and rectum. An infestation causes the dog to have mucus-filled, bloody diarrhea that can either be chronic or intermittent.

Tapeworms

The adult form of the most common tapeworm found in dogs, *Diphylidium caninum*, attaches itself to the lining of the small intestine, with the body and tail of the long, flat parasite flowing free. This tapeworm can be up to 50cm long.



Image Credit: www.dogbreedinfo.com

Segments of these tapeworms, full of eggs, are passed in the feces. As the segments dry, they break open and free the eggs. Adult flea or louse larvae, which serve as the intermediate hosts, swallow the eggs. Intermediate hosts provide a living space for the immature stages of parasites. The eggs develop into an immature form in the insect. When a dog swallows the flea or louse, the immature form of the tapeworm develops into an adult tapeworm, completing the lifecycle.

The tapeworm segments found in the feces appear as small, flat, white rice-like pieces of worms. Tapeworm segments may stick to the hair around the anus. They may also appear as dry, straw-coloured rice grains in the dog's bed or on the dog.



Tapeworms segments found in dog feces

Image Credit: www.dogbreedinfo.com

Heavy infestations of tapeworms may cause abdominal discomfort or nervousness in the dog. Occasionally the dog may vomit or have convulsions. Dogs may lick their anus or scoot on the ground to get rid of active tapeworm segments. Dogs that have continual flea problems often have tapeworms.

Humans have become infected with the *D. caninum* tapeworm by swallowing a flea that contains tapeworm eggs however the risk of infection is low. Children are more likely to become infected than adults because of playing in dirt and then putting their hands in their mouth, swallowing either infected fleas or segments of tapeworms passed in dog feces.

The best way to control tapeworms is to control flea and rodent problems. Do not allow your dog to eat rabbits, mice and other wild animal meat.

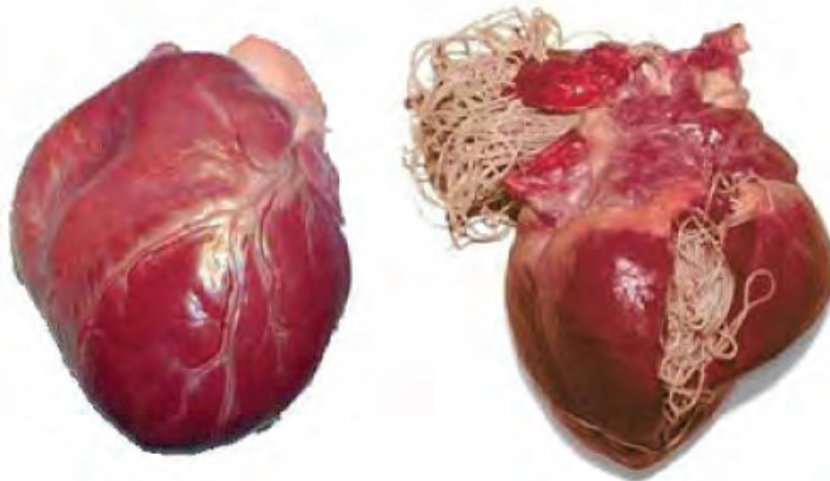
Heartworms

The heartworm, *Dirofilaria immitis*, is an internal parasite of the heart. Adult heartworms occupy the right chambers of the heart and larger blood vessels. They are spread from dog to dog by mosquitoes releasing heartworm larvae into the bloodstream of the dog. After the larvae enter the dog's system, they develop further and eventually reach the heart as mature worms. This whole developmental period takes about six months. The mature male and female heartworms then produce microfilariae, which can be detected in the dog's blood by microscopic examination.

The first symptoms of heartworms include:

- Shortness of breath
- Shallow cough
- Tendency towards easy tiring

These symptoms are seldom observed when the microfilariae are first detectable in the dog's bloodstream but appear after the adult worms have infested the heart and adjacent blood vessels. Early diagnosis is therefore important. Left untreated, heartworms will kill your dog.



Healthy heart on the left. Heartworm infested heart on the right.

Image Credit: Dog~Nutrition~Naturally.com <https://www.dog-nutrition-naturally.com/heartworms.html>

Preventative medication can be given to your dog but only after it receives the test and is definitely free of heartworms. Giving the heartworm preventative medication without first testing the dog could kill it. Consult with your veterinarian as to if and when your dog should receive the preventative medication.

Giardia

Giardia intestinalis is a protozoan found in the upper small intestines of vertebrates. Giardia is usually picked up from contaminated water. Signs of infected animals include soft stools, diarrhea and mucous in the stools. Sometimes they have abdominal pain. Fecal exams can be done to see if Giardia is the cause of diarrhea.

Humans can become infected after drinking water infected with Giardia. When camping or hiking, treat all water to kill Giardia or bring your own water. People can also become infected by putting something into their mouth that has come into contact with the dog's stool. Some of Giardia in humans include diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramps.

External Parasites

At some time or another, your dog can become infected with external parasites. Clean living quarters, bedding and equipment are very important to the control of these parasites. However, they may be transferred through contact with other dogs. Proper sanitation practices and avoiding direct contact with infected animals or their waste will help to maintain the good health of your dog.

Fleas

There are over 2500 species of fleas. The most common one found on dogs is the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*). Fleas hop from host to host and suck their blood. A flea can live on a dog for more than 100 days if it is not bothered.



Image Credit: MedicAnimal <https://www.medicanimal.com>

The adult female flea lays several eggs each day while living on the dog. The eggs, which are not sticky, fall from the dog and hatch into larvae in four to six days. The larvae feed on organic matter, moult twice, spin a cocoon, develop into a pupa and emerge as an adult flea. The life cycle of the flea lasts between 14 to 140 days depending upon the ambient (surrounding area) temperature.

Dogs with fleas may itch, scratch, bite, chew, lose hair, develop bumps on the skin that harbor bacteria or develop rashes. The saliva of fleas contains a protein that can be extremely irritating to dogs, causing a condition called flea allergy dermatitis. A dog can be sensitive to the bite of one flea. A heavy infestation of fleas could cause anemia.

If you suspect your dogs has fleas, look through their hair, especially on the back of the neck, on the belly, behind the elbows and around the base of the tail. Fleas are large enough to see and you may see them hopping or crawling. You might not see a flea but might notice small black specks in your dog's hair. These are fecal droppings from the fleas, called flea dirt. Wet fecal droppings turn red because flea dirt is made up of blood that the flea excretes after feeding on your dog. You can also run a flea comb through your dog's coat to find fleas and/or flea dirt.

To eliminate fleas, you must break their life cycle. Sometimes this is very hard to do and is best achieved using a variety of treatments and techniques that breaks the flea's life cycle at different stages. There are a variety of products on the market but consult your veterinarian first for a flea control program that fits your dog's needs. Some flea control products kill only the

fleas, while other cause the flea eggs to become sterile. Never use a flea control product made for dogs on your cat.

Eliminating the fleas on your dog isn't the only problem you need to deal with. Because new eggs may hatch eight to ten days later, the flea population on your dog could soon become as high as before. Flea eggs could be laid in grass, your dog's bedding, in the carpet or any favourite place where your dog spends a lot of time. Your dog might bring fleas into the house from outside. So, this means the fleas living in your dog's environment must also be eliminated. Vacuum your carpet often to remove eggs that may have been laid on the carpet. After vacuuming, put the contents of the vacuum in the garbage outside your house. It will contain eggs that can still hatch.

When you have dogs, you are likely to encounter fleas at some point. Flea prevention is much less costly and is definitely less frustrating. Once you get a flea infestation in your house it takes a lot of work and money for treatments to permanently eliminate the fleas.

Lice

Lice are host specific, meaning they affect only one host species, spending their entire life cycle on the host. Lice only live a few days when off of their host.



Image Credit: Pest Wiki <https://www.pestwiki.com/lice-treatment-dogs/>

The most common biting louse to affect dogs is *Trichodectes canis*. This is a small yellow louse found on the dog's head, neck and tail. The only sucking louse that affects dogs is *Linognathus setosus*.

Irritation from lice infestation causes scratching which may lead to skin problems. Medicated soaps, powders and shampoos are effective in controlling lice, To break the life cycle, the treatment must be repeated at weekly intervals for two or three weeks.

Ticks

Ticks are arachnids related to spiders and mites. Ticks are most active in spring and summer but can be found at any time of the year when the temperature is above freezing. It is possible to find an infected tick almost anywhere in Ontario.

American Dog Tick



Image Credit: Bug Guide – Iowa State University, Department of Entomology <https://bugguide.net>

The most common tick species seen in Canada are the American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*), the Deer Tick (Black legged tick), Brown Dog Ticks and Lone Star Ticks. Ticks can carry blood borne diseases such as Ehrlichia, Anaplasma and most commonly Lyme Disease (transmitted by the Deer Tick). Tick populations are on the rise in both numbers and geographic distribution meaning the risk of tick-borne disease is increasing.

Ticks are most active in the spring and fall from March-June and September-November. However, with milder winters they can be active as early as February and as late as December. They are active at temperatures as low as 4 degrees Celsius and can survive over winter. Ticks prefer damp humid environments and especially wooded or grassy areas. Precaution should be used when walking on trails, through leaf litter or near shrubs.

Ticks feed on blood and can take around 5-6 hours to attach firmly to a pet and up to 10 days to fully engorge when feeding. Unfortunately, it can take as little as 24-48 hours after attachment or a tick to transmit disease to the pet making tick preventatives key in preventing tick borne disease. After feeding, a female tick can lay up to 8000 eggs per day. Ticks can take up to two years to complete their life cycle but milder winters can allow adults to breed through winter months.

Look It Up!

Find out which areas in Canada are most prone to having ticks. Are there any other ticks that are found in Canada besides the ones listed in this project manual?



Image Credit: <https://tickinfo.com/american dog tick>

Left to Right: unengorged female, 1/4 engorged, 1/2 engorged and fully engorged

The American dog tick is found in weedy and overgrown vegetation. The dog brushes against the vegetation, acquiring the tick. Once on the host, ticks crawl upward, find a place to attach themselves and begin sucking blood. When adult ticks first emerge, dogs and humans can pick up many tiny ticks in a small weedy area.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is caused by the rickettsia organism which is transmitted through the bite of the American dog tick. Symptoms of RMSF appear in the acute stages with dogs losing their appetite and developing a fever, pain in their joints and muscles, edema (accumulation of fluid) in the face and legs and swollen lymph nodes. They may also be dizzy, have seizures or appear to be lethargic. Signs appear 2 to 14 days after a tick bite.

The American dog tick can also cause paralysis. Some female ticks secrete a toxin that affects the nervous system of certain dogs, causing paralysis. Paralysis usually starts about a week after multiple ticks feed off the dogs. Typically, the hind limbs are affected but in some dogs, the tick paralysis affects the front limbs as well. If not treated, death can occur if the paralysis spreads to the respiratory system. Once the ticks are removed, most animals recover.

The American dog tick does not transmit Lyme disease.

Various species of the deer tick (also known as the black-legged tick), are the main carriers of the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. The deer tick is much smaller than the American dog tick. Adult female ticks, infected with Lyme disease as larvae or nymphs, may transmit this disease when feeding on dogs or humans. Male ticks attach but do not become engorged with blood and do not transmit Lyme disease.

If the deer tick is infected with Lyme disease, it must be attached for 24 to 48 hours before it transmits Lyme disease.

Avoid ticks by keeping dogs out of weedy, tick-infested areas, especially during spring and summer. Inspect yourself and your dogs daily. Exercise your dog in mowed areas.

If a tick should become attached to you or your pet, remove it as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable removing the tick from your pet, see your veterinarian immediately.

To remove a tick:

1. Use a paper towel, tweezers (or a tick remover hook) and disposable gloves to keep the tick from coming into contact with your skin. Do not remove the tick with bare fingers!
2. Grasp the tick close to the dog's skin (or your skin) and with steady pressure, pull it straight out. Do not twist or jerk the tick, as mouthparts may be left in the skin. Do not crush or puncture the tick during removal.



*Image Credit: Alouette Animal Hospital
<https://www.alouetteanimalhospital.ca/>*

3. Do not light the tick with a match as this may cause the tick to burst. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever may be acquired from infected tick body fluids that come in contact with broken skin, the mouth or eyes.
4. Avoid touching ticks with bare hands as tick secretions can be infectious.
5. After removing a tick, thoroughly disinfect the bite site and wash your hands with soap and water.
6. If you want, put the tick in a pill bottle or plastic bag and take it to your veterinary clinic for them to identify the species of tick and if it was infected with Lyme Disease. Or, safely dispose of the tick by placing it in a container of oil or alcohol, sticking it to tape or flushing it down the toilet.

Discuss It!

Have you ever found a tick on your dog? Have you ever had a tick attached to you? What did you do about it?

Mites

Mites also belong to the arachnid family. There are several species of mites that infect dogs.

Walking dandruff gets its name because if you closely observe the skin, you see scales, or the dandruff, moving on the skin. This mite can live several days off its host so it is possible for animals to become infected from environment contamination such as bedding. The symptoms of walking dandruff include skin irritation, typically along the dog's back. Infected dogs might have slight hair loss, itching, scales (dandruff) and maybe some thickening of the skin. Humans can also become infested with this mite, causing mild skin irritation and itching. Most common insecticides used to kill fleas also kill these mites.

Ear mites infect the ear canal of puppies and dogs. They can also live on other parts of the dog, including the feet and tail. Ear mites are extremely contagious and can be passed from the mother to her puppies and are easily spread to other species of pets.

The symptoms of ear mites include the animal shaking its head and/or scratching around its ears. If there is a heavy infestation or ear mites, ear scratching and head shaking intensifies. The ear canals bleed, with either fresh or dried blood appearing inside the canal. Dried blood looks like coffee grounds. Consult your veterinarian if you think your dog may have ear mites or an ear infection. If not treated, ear mites can cause serious damage to the ear canals and ear drums and cause permanent hearing loss. Ear mites are not transmissible to humans.

Demodectic mange, also known as red mange, puppy mange or follicular mange, is a skin disease typically found in puppies and young dogs. The mites are transferred by direct contact from the mother to her puppies with the first week after birth. These mites do not contaminate the environment, such as bedding or kennel areas, so the dog's surroundings do not need to be treated.

The lesions and hair loss caused by the mites may be localized in one area on the body or spread over different regions or the entire body. Signs include hair loss, with crusty and inflamed (red) skin. Usually the hair loss is first noticed around the dog's eyes, muzzle and other areas on the head. As the puppies develop their own immunity, most of these lesions heal on their own. However, heavily infected dogs may lose their appetite, develop a fever and become listless. Skin

Ear Mite



Image Credit: College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University <https://www.k-state.edu>

scrapings can identify demodectic mange. Treatment is given with drugs that travel through the bloodstream to kill the mite and topically as prescribed by your veterinarian. Some dogs die from demodectic mange.

Dogs with histories of demodectic mange should be spayed or neutered and not bred. Humans cannot get this form of mange.

Sarcoptic mange, also known as canine scabies, is a microscopic mite that can infect all ages and breeds of dogs, causing hair loss and severe itching. Sarcoptes mites prefer to live on dogs but they can live in the environment for two to six days which means that dogs can become infected by picking up a mite from their environment, not just by direct contact with an infected dog. The hair loss and itching typically occurs where there is less hair such as the elbows, ears, chest, armpits, hocks and belly. The infection can spread over the dog's entire body with small red pustules developing along with yellow crust on the skin. Sarcoptic mange is sometimes misdiagnosed as skin allergies so a skin scraping must be done to determine if this mite is causing the irritation. If your dog has sarcoptic mange, your dog will need to visit your veterinarian for treatment. The dog's environment must also be treated.

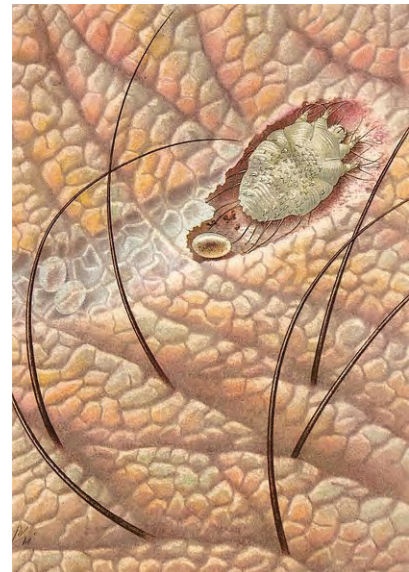


Image Credit: <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/mange-sarcoptic-in-dogs>

Humans can get sarcoptic mange from dogs but it typically causes only temporary itching and then the mites die.

Chiggers mites are most often found on the dog's legs, head and belly. Some dogs are not bothered by chiggers while others may scratch the infested area. Chiggers are commonplace in the United States but now seem to be expanding their range into Canada, especially into Southwestern Ontario.

The larvae hatch from the eggs in late summer and crawl onto the host. Attached to the dog or human, they feed on fluid for several days and then detach themselves. Chiggers seem to live in the same places from year to year, so the best prevention is avoidance of tall grass and weeds where chiggers inhabit. In humans, the bite from the mite causes a small welt, usually around the ankles that causes severe itching for several days. Topical treatment is available from your veterinarian for chiggers found on dogs and at your local pharmacy for humans.

Other

Ringworm

Ringworm is a highly contagious fungus that infects dogs, humans and other mammals. There are three species of fungi that commonly affect dogs. Ringworm is transmitted either by direct contact with an infected animal or contact with an object that is contaminated with the spores. Spores from infected animals can live in the environment (grooming equipment, kennels, doghouses, crates, etc.) for over 18 months. Young dogs or dogs with suppressed immune systems are more susceptible to ringworm than are healthy adult dogs.



Image Credit: <https://topdogtips.com/ringworm-in-dogs/>

Symptoms of ringworm include a small, round, scaly lesion without any hair. Pustules may form and the skin may appear red. The lesion may begin as a small spot but continue to grow. In some cases, ringworm may not appear in a round shape and may be confused with demodectic mange. The most accurate way to diagnose ringworm is to do a skin scraping and grow a culture. Once diagnosed, the fungus can be treated topically with antifungal medication.

Ringworm is transmissible from dogs to humans. Wear gloves when handling affected dogs and thoroughly wash your hands afterwards.

Look It Up!

There are other animals that can also have ringworm. What other species can have ringworm and is it transferable from those species to dogs or humans?

Share It!

Have you been to a show where there was a dog with ringworm? Was anything done about it? Why is it important to keep your dog at home if it has ringworm?

Brucellosis

Brucellosis in dogs is caused by bacteria called *Brucella canis*. This disease spreads from one dog to another during breeding or oral contact with vaginal discharges, aborted fetuses and placentas, semen or urine. It occurs most frequently in breeding kennels although family pets could also become infected.

Pregnant female dogs with brucellosis abort their puppies. Nonpregnant females might have trouble conceiving when bred. Males develop swelling of the testicles and usually become sterile. Some dogs appear to be in excellent health yet are infected and can spread the disease.

Brucellosis is diagnosed by blood culture and/or blood testing. More than one blood sample is usually required.

There is no vaccine for the prevention of brucellosis and no effective treatment for dogs with the disease. Dogs diagnosed with brucellosis should be euthanized since the disease may spread to other dogs and may be a threat to human health.

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease (can be spread from animals to humans) but the chance of infection appears to be unlikely in humans.

Zoonosis

This is also called zoonotic disease and refers to diseases that can be passed from animals, either wild or domesticated, to humans. It can also happen in reverse with humans passing disease to animals. The danger of contracting a disease from your dog is not very likely as long as you are using proper cleaning measures. The chance of contracting a contagious disease from another human is much greater than from a dog. Most diseases are rather specific for the host, whether it is an animal or a human.

Children are at a higher risk of getting zoonotic parasites, mostly because they play outside and tend to put objects in their mouths. Children and adults should wash their hands often, especially after playing with pets, after playing outdoors and before eating.

Discuss It!

Make a list of zoonotic diseases that can be transferred between dogs and humans.

Bacterial Infections

A variety of bacterial infections can be transmitted by a dog bite. The most common bite-associated infection is caused by a *Pasteurella* bacterium. Most dogs (and cats) naturally carry Pasteurella bacteria in their mouths. When a dog bites a person, these bacteria can enter the wound and start an infection. Signs of infection include pain, reddening and swelling of the area surrounding the site of the bite. The first signs typically occur within 2 to 12 hours of the bite. Pasteurellosis can progress rapidly, spreading toward the body from the location of the bite. It is important that medical treatment is sought immediately if any symptoms occur as serious complications can result if left untreated.

Dental Care

Periodontal disease is the most common clinical condition in adult dogs according to the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation. To prevent illness and keep your dog healthy, it's important to clean your dog's teeth. Although many dogs may not like it initially, finding the right dog toothpaste, introducing it slowly, and brushing consistently, can help with the process. The most important thing to remember about brushing your dog's teeth is not to use human toothpaste on your dog. Many human toothpastes contain Xylitol, an artificial sweetener that is toxic to dogs. Xylitol can cause blood sugar drops in dogs, as well as potential liver damage.



Share It!

Do you brush your dog's teeth? If so, list what equipment you use, how often you brush its teeth and describe how you brush your dog's teeth.

Image Credit: <https://gooddogsco.com/best-dog-toothbrush/>

Periodontal disease is an inflammation and infection of the gums and surrounding tissue. This is due to a build-up of plaque and tartar full of bacteria. Gingivitis is an early form of periodontal disease, exhibited by red and/or swollen gums and bleeding gums. Gingivitis is reversible when treated with antibiotics. Left untreated, gingivitis may develop into periodontal disease. Signs of periodontal disease include halitosis (bad breath), inflammation and bleeding of the gums, recession of the gums and tooth loss. Periodontal disease can also lead to bacterial infections that spread to other parts of the dog's body.

Anal Glands

Anal sacs are small, paired sacs containing anal glands, located on each side of the anus between the external and internal sphincter muscles. Sometimes called “scent glands,” these glands enable dogs to mark territory and identify other dogs. Pressure from stools passing out of the anus normally causes the anal glands to empty. Failure to empty could result in impacted or abscessed anal sacs and discomfort from the full anal gland pushing on the anus. Impacted anal sacs may need to be manually emptied, a procedure a veterinarian can show you how to do. Signs of impacted anal sacs are indicated by the dog licking and biting at their anal region or scooting on the ground. Smaller dogs are more commonly affected with impacted anal sacs.

Gastric Dilation-Volvulus (GDV)

Bloat is the most common term for Gastric Dilation-Volvulus (GDV). It is also called gastric torsion or twisted stomach. GDV is a life-threatening emergency and must be treated by a veterinarian immediately. A bloated dog can die within a few hours and even with treatment one-quarter to one-third of dogs with bloat will still die.

Bloat is characterized by a swelling of the stomach from gas and frothy material. This puts pressure on other organs and the diaphragm, making it hard for the dog to breathe. Because the stomach is filled with air, it can easily rotate or twist (volvulus), pinching off the blood supply. With the blood supply to the stomach cut off, the stomach quits working and the entire blood supply is disrupted, causing the dog’s condition to very rapidly deteriorate. Severe bloat can be fatal in 30 minutes or less.

The two most obvious symptoms of GDV are:

- Swollen belly and sides, especially if it appears quickly
- Non-productive vomiting (the dogs tries to vomit but nothing comes up)

Other symptoms may include:

- Salivating
- Panting
- Whining
- Retching and production of small amounts of frothy, foamy vomit
- Excessive drooling
- Retching noises
- Restlessness
- Nauseated

- Agitation
- Dog is uncomfortable, pacing continuously
- Lying down in strange places
- Acting depressed
- Show signs of pain
- Rapid, shallow breathing

If you notice any combination of these symptoms, call your veterinarian and get your dog to the vet clinic as fast as possible. As the condition worsens, your dog may go into shock, become pale, have a rapid heart rate, weak pulse and then collapse.

GDV is more likely to occur in large breeds of dogs with deep, narrow chests with studies showing that Great Danes run the greatest risk of getting bloat. Genetics are also a factor in a dog's susceptibility to bloat. Certain bloodlines within certain breeds may be more prone to bloat. Male dogs are twice as likely to develop bloat than dogs that are two to four years old. Dogs that are more nervous and anxious may be at a higher risk for bloat. Dogs who are fed once a day, who eat their food quickly or who exercise soon after eating are a higher risk for bloat.

While there is no absolute way to prevent GDV, you can help to reduce the risk by following these recommendations:

1. If you have a breed of dog susceptible to bloat, be aware of the early signs
2. Know how to contact your veterinarian in an emergency or where to take your dog if you notice signs of GDV
3. Feed large dogs two or three times a day instead of once daily
4. Make any changes in your dog's diet gradually over a three to five day period
5. Feed your dog separately and alone if it gorges its food because of competing with other dogs
6. Limit exercise one hour before and two hours after eating
7. Do not let your dog drink large amounts of water at one time and limit its water immediately after eating

First Aid

Early recognition of illness or injury in your dog is important. Learning basic first aid and what to do in emergencies may save your dog's life. There may be a time when you need to stabilize your pet and rush them to an emergency veterinary clinic. You also need to be able to recognize if your dog is in need of first aid or the attention of your veterinarian.

Learn your dog's normal vital signs. Take your dog's vital signs when they are healthy so you know what is normal for your dog.

Vital Signs

Temperature

The normal body temperature in dogs is 38.1°C (100.5°F) to 39.2°C (102.5°F). Take your dog's temperature rectally using a mercury or digital thermometer. Apply a small amount of petroleum jelly to the bulb end of the thermometer to lubricate it for entry into the rectum. With someone holding the dog, grasp and lift the dog's tail and carefully insert the thermometer into its rectum far enough to completely cover the bulb. Do not let the dog sit down. Leave the thermometer inserted for three minutes before reading it.



Do It!

With the help of your leaders or a senior 4-H member, practice the proper way to take your dog's temperature.

Heart Rate (Pulse)

The normal resting heart rate for most adult dogs is 60 to 90 beats per minute (bpm). To check your dog's heart rate, check it at home when your dog is relaxed so you get a more accurate measurement. To find your dog's heart rate you can

1. Put your hand on your dog's chest to feel the heart beating
2. Put your finger on the femoral artery in the groin area when the leg connects to the body
3. Put your finger behind the left elbow

Count the heart beats for 15 seconds and then multiply by four to get the beats per minute. Abnormal heart rates, unless caused by exercise or other tangible factors, may indicate a health problem.

Do It!

Practice the various ways to check your dog's heart rate. Is one method easier than another?

Respiratory Rate

This is the number of breaths per minute. The normal respiratory rate for a dog at rest is 10 to 30 breaths per minute. A dog can pant up to 200 pants per minute. Respiratory rates increase in dogs that are in pain, are suffering from heat stroke, have respiratory or heart problems or are excited. To check your dog's respiratory rate, have them stand or lie down. Watch for signs breathing in (inhalation) such as their chest rising and falling. Using a watch with a second hand, count the number of times your dog breathes in 15 seconds and then multiply that number by 4, giving you the number of breaths per minute. If it is hard to see your dog breathing, put a tissue or mirror by your dog's nostrils and look for tissue movement or the mirror fogging up.

Do It!

Practice taking your dog's heart rate at rest and then again after your dog exercises. What is the difference in heart rate?

First Aid Tips

Obstructed Airway

If you find your dog is having trouble breathing, seek immediate assistance if possible. It is always best to have two people to assist a dog in an emergency. A dog's reaction to not being able to breath may be unpredictable and uncharacteristic of the dog as they may panic and lash out. If you are comfortable assisting your dog, the following procedure should be followed.

To establish an open airway, tilt the chin up. Check the mouth for any visible obstructions. If there aren't any, hold the dog's mouth closed and breathe into its nose. Watch to see if the chest inflates with the breath. If the chest does not expand, there is still a blockage and the Heimlich maneuver must be performed to dislodge the obstructing object. Sit on the floor with your dog's back to your chest and the dog's head toward your feet. Wrap your arms around the dog's abdomen just below the ribcage. Grasp your hands together and thrust against the diaphragm, up and under the ribs. Repeat several times and then recheck the airway. If the airway is clear but your dog is not breathing on its own, do mouth to nose respirations until your dog is breathing on its own or until you have veterinary assistance.

If your dog is a large breed dog and it is not physically possible to sit on the floor with your arms around your dog, have your dog stand and straddle the dog to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

You should receive training from a professional dog handler, such as a veterinarian, before attempting to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

Choking

A dog may gag, try to vomit, scratch at their mouth or drool. Check for an object caught in the throat or mouth. When attempting to remove the object, take care not to push the object farther down the dog's throat. If the dog is unable to get air, the Heimlich maneuver should be performed.

Bee Stings

One or two bee stings usually cause very little discomfort for a dog. If the dog is biting at a bee sting, apply a paste of bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) and water. If the dog has been badly stung, you should take your dog immediately to a veterinarian. Severe allergic reactions can occur just as in humans.

Minor cuts and scratches

Wash the wound with soap and water. Keep it clean. Watch for signs of infection such as redness, pain, swelling and drainage of pus.

Diarrhea

This may be caused by a change of diet, giving your dog milk, too much grease from human foods, overeating, stress, sickness, parasites or disease. Withhold food for 24 hours but encourage your dog to drink plenty of water. Anti-diarrhea products sold for people may be used but the amount given depends on the dog's size. Dogs with diarrhea that persists for more than 24 hours or is severe or bloody should be seen by a veterinarian.

Eating Grass

There are many theories as to why dogs eat grass but there's no evidence or proof as to why dogs do this. Eating grass may cause your dog to vomit but it causes no harm.



Image Credit: Pet Place <https://www.petplace.com>

Electric Shock

If you find your dog with the electric cord still in its mouth or if the cord is touching the dog, pull the plug out of the electric socket **before** touching the dog to avoid getting a shock yourself. If the dog has had a severe shock and is in a partial coma, give them artificial respiration by applying compressions to the chest. Call your veterinarian for immediate instructions.

Eye Infection or Injury

Flush the eye with lukewarm water. Apply a few drops or a medicated eye drop solution, available at most pharmacies for the temporary relief of burning eyes. Call your veterinarian immediately.

Seizures (convulsions)

Many seizures appear as a shaking of the head or body with uncontrolled spasms. Most epileptic seizures are brief, lasting only a couple of minutes. The dog then appears dazed but otherwise normal. Repeated or prolonged seizures indicate poisoning and must be treated by your veterinarian immediately. A dog that has any type of seizure should be examined by a veterinarian.

Heatstroke

A dog tied up without any protection from the sun, left in a car when it is warm or hot outside or exercised excessively in hot, humid weather is vulnerable to heatstroke. The dog may pant excessively or collapse. The dog must be cooled quickly by immersing in cool water (but not cold water), by spraying with a hose or putting the wet dog in front of a fan. Take the dog to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Hit by a car

Before assisting a dog that has been hit by a car, make sure the situation is safe for you to enter.

When a dog is hit by a car, the first thing that must be done is to muzzle the dog since any dog in pain is likely to bite. Then, if the dog is lying on the road, move the dog to safety. This can be done by standing, facing the back of the dog, grasping him by the scruff of the neck and the skin over the hips and sliding the dog across the ground. If you have a board or coat handy, slide the dog onto that to move it. Be careful not to cause further damage by moving the dog. Once it is off the road, you need to look for any bleeding. Blood that is spurting is from an artery and must

have immediate and continuous pressure applied until it can be treated. Keep the dog warm and quiet and seek immediate veterinary attention.

Motion Sickness

A dog with motion sickness drools, becomes nauseated and vomits. If your dog suffers from motion sickness, do not feed it before going on a trip. Unfortunately, many dogs are only in the car to go to the veterinarian or groomers, both of which can make them anxious, contributing to the motion sickness problem. Take your dog on short trips, gradually increasing the length of time they are in the car. They should outgrow the problem. If the problem persists, your veterinarian can prescribe medication to help.

Poison

A dog showing signs of poisoning may exhibit any of the following:

- Cries
- Crouching
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Trembling
- Staggering
- Hard breathing
- Convulsions
- Coma

If you suspect your dog has ingested some type of poison, call the North American Pet Poison Hotline at 1-800-213-6680. When calling, try to determine the type of poison taken to help with a quicker response.

Check It Out!

Go online to determine if the North American Pet Poison Hotline is still in operation. Be sure to have this phone number posted in your house for easy access as well as saving it in your cell phone.

If vomiting is recommended, give your dog 3% hydrogen peroxide using 5mL (one teaspoon) per ten pounds of the dog's body weight. A teaspoon (5mL) of table salt (two or three teaspoons for larger dogs) may also induce vomiting. Vomiting should occur shortly. After the stomach has been emptied, activated charcoal should be given to bind any remaining poison and prevent it from being absorbed. The dosage is one 5 gram tablet per 10 pounds of the dog's body weight. If charcoal isn't available, the stomach and intestines can be coated with a mixture of milk and egg white (60mL (1/4 cup per each 10 pounds of body weight)). Rush the dog to the veterinarian even though they may appear to have recovered. Special caution should be taken to keep your dog away from antifreeze, rat poison and other chemicals.

Skunk Odour

If your dog has been sprayed by a skunk, wash its eyes with a warm water and then bathe your dog with tomato juice or soup, taking special care with the head because that is probably where the scent is concentrated. Allow the tomato solution to remain on the coat for about 20 minutes. Then wash with pine-scented or chlorophyll soap or a commercial dog shampoo. Another method of removing skunk odour is to mix one litre of 3% hydrogen peroxide, 60mL (1/4 cup) of baking soda and 5mL (one teaspoon) liquid soap. Shampoo the dog with this solution and rinse thoroughly. Discard any leftover solution because the chemical reaction of the ingredients may cause a sealed container to explode.

Do It!

St. John Ambulance offers a pet first aid course. Find out if this course is running in your area.

Reach Out!

Invite someone from St. John Ambulance to speak about first aid for dogs and explain what should be in a Canine First Aid Kit and how to use the items.

Experience It!

What would you do if...?

Have members role play the scenarios above listed under 'First Aid Tips.' Take turns acting out a medical emergency and describe the course of action to take. Each member can take a turn as vet and pet owner.

Canine First Aid Kit

Canine first aid is the emergency medical treatment of a dog. There are some key steps to canine first aid:

1. Detecting – recognizing that a situation has occurred
2. Remaining calm
3. Assessing the situation and determining any further danger or potential dangers that still exist. Members should ask themselves
 - What is wrong?
 - How bad is it?
 - What needs to be done?
 - What kind of help do I need?
4. Prevent further injury to people or dog
5. Calling for help
6. Administering treatment
7. Transporting if necessary and deciding if you need help
8. Monitoring of the victim
9. Follow-up. It is a good idea to re-evaluate the situation. Depending on the severity of the accident, you may wish to discuss it with someone, such as family or friends

Contents of the Canine “First Aid Kit”

- Thermometer
- Tweezers
- Sterile gauze, both rolls and pads
- Tape
- Scissors
- Eye wash
- Plastic syringe
- Antiseptic
- Water-based lubricating jelly
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Antihistamine
- Ipecac syrup
- Safety pins
- Muzzle
- Stretch wrap
- Piece of paper and pen
- Cotton balls and rolls
- Veterinarian information card
- Antibiotic cream or ointment
- Tick Remover

Do It!

Put a canine first aid kit together. Discuss what each item in the kit would be used for.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Having a good relationship with your veterinarian is very important. How well do you know your veterinarian? Make sure you have all of their contact information in your Record Book. If your veterinarian is willing, interview them to find out why they decided to become a veterinarian, what schooling they have and what their favourite part of being a veterinarian is.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

There are a number of other diseases that dogs can get that aren't covered in this unit. Find two diseases that are specific to dogs and research what the symptoms are and what/if there is a cure for each disease.

ACTIVITY #1

HEALTHY OR NOT

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity sheets “Signs of Health in My Dog” and “Signs of Sickness in My Dog”• Pen or pencil <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members fill out the activity sheets
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify signs of problems if their dog is unwell and to continue to work towards the ongoing health of their dog.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is your dog healthy?• Was there anything you noticed about your dog’s overall health from doing this activity?• Can you think of any ailments your dog is susceptible to?• How often will you monitor your dog’s health?

Signs of Health in My Dog

	Ears	Eyes
Coat Condition	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Tail		Nose
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
Stool		Temperature
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
Behavior		
✦ Energy	_____	
✦ Appetite	_____	
✦ Interest	_____	
✦ Temperament	_____	



Signs of Sickness in My Dog

Coat Condition

Ears

Eyes

Tail

Stool

Behavior

- Energy
- Appetite
- Interest
- Temperament



Nose

Temperature

ACTIVITY #2

PARASITES: WHO AM I?

DO	<p>Time: 10 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laptop and projector <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask each member to give a PowerPoint presentation on a different canine parasite, making sure to include life cycle of the parasite, how it can be recognized and treatment of the parasite
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify various parasites that can affect dogs and what protocol is required to treat and rid the dog of the parasite.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important for your dog to be treated/vaccinated against parasites?• How can you prevent the spread of parasites?• Has your dog ever had parasites?• How did you treat the problem?

SECTION 3C – CANINE REPRODUCTION

Setting Objectives

Taking care of animals is a huge responsibility. Making the choice to breed animals is also a huge responsibility. Every responsible breeder should be devoted to breeding away from disorders in bloodlines in order to improve the health and well being of their lines. This means having an in-depth knowledge of their breeds, including health and genetic concerns, structure, temperament and type as well as having good knowledge about canine reproduction.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand the importance of ethical dog breeding
- To understand the estrous cycle of the female dog
- To recognize what preparations need to be made when your dog is going to have puppies
- To learn what the dam needs to do with her puppies immediately after birth
- To understand the importance of postpartum care for both the dam and her puppies

Roll Calls

- Have you ever witnessed puppies being born? If so, tell the group about the experience.
- Name one behaviour that a female dog will exhibit that tells you she is within hours of having her puppies.
- Name a good reason to breed a dog.

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 1 hours 40 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Reproduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Estrous Cycle • Prior to Breeding • Diagnosing Pregnancy • Signs of Whelping • Active or Hard Labour • Delivery • Postpartum Care • Feeding Puppies • Weaning <u>Activities</u> Breeding & Puppies	60 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Your Dog's Life Prior to Life with You	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Reproduction

The thought of having your female dog bred in order to have puppies can be an exciting thought! But there are a lot of other things to think about before making the decision to bring more puppies into this world.

There are thousands of unwanted dogs euthanized every day. Many more are abandoned and die of starvation or are killed on the road. There is also the risk of losing your family pet from whelping (giving birth) complications.

Most breeders don't make a large profit from the sale of a litter of puppies. The breeding fee, veterinary costs, along with the cost of puppy food quickly reduce any profit to a minimal amount. And that's if everything goes well. If there are complications, the veterinary care costs will rise considerably, and you may be in a loss position financially even after selling all of the puppies. The amount of care, space and sanitary facilities needed for a litter of puppies is surprisingly large. It may also be difficult to find good homes for a large litter.

You should only raise a litter of puppies if you have a bitch (female) with a good temperament that is healthy, structurally sound and a good representation of the breed. Know what health problems are concerns for your breed of dog and make sure both the male and female are screened for them. Then, breed only if you can find a male of equal or better quality than your female. Indiscriminate breeders breed as many of their females as then can, literally turning their operation into a puppy mill. The dog's faults in conformation and disposition are multiplied and the development of the breed is set back. Only sound, quality dogs should be used for breeding. Unless you own a good example of the breed, male or female, the dog should be spayed or neutered. The dog can still make a great companion and can still be shown in obedience trials, agility, rally and many other events.

A female dog is referred to as a bitch as well as a dam (mother) once she has given birth to a litter of puppies.

Debate It!

The ethics of raising puppies provides for a lot of discussion and debate. Just because someone wants cute puppies, should they breed for them? As members to research ethical breeding contracts. Discuss the responsibilities to the puppies and their mother.

Check It Out!

Look online at shelters that offer puppies for adoption. Look to see how many dogs and which breeds are available .

The Estrous Cycle

Sexual maturity, or puberty, in female dogs occurs with the first estrous cycle, also known as the heat cycle. Bitches typically experience the first estrous cycle a few months after reaching adult height and body weight. Smaller breeds usually reach sexual maturity between 6 and 10 months of ages as toy and smaller breeds mature faster than the larger breeds. Larger, slower maturing breeds may not reach puberty until 12 to 18 months. The giant breeds, which are the slowest to mature, may not have the first estrous cycle until 18 to 24 months of age. The average interval between estrous cycles is 7 months with some breeds cycling every 4 to 5 months and other breeds every 10 months. Unlike many other species, the bitch's estrous cycle is not seasonal. Females cycle and breed throughout the year. Females of smaller breeds should be at least 2 years old before the first breeding and larger breed females should be 3 or 4 years old before the first breeding. Allow them to go through at least two estrous cycles before being bred. When breeding females are more than 8 years of age their fertility decreases, whelping problems increase and there is a greater chance of birth defects.

Look It Up!

Find out what age your breed of dog reaches puberty at and what the interval is between estrous cycles for your dog's breed.

Females are not fertile when they first come into heat. On average they are ready for breeding about 9 days after the after the heat cycle starts and usually remain fertile for about a week but this can vary. The canine estrous cycle is a complex interaction of hormonal, behavioural, and physical changes. Each individual dog is different and may not show signs to the same extent.

The four stages in a bitch's estrous cycle are:

- 1. Anestrus** – the period between diestrus and proestrus when there is no normal activity. This interval of reproductive rest lasts an average of 5 months.
- 2. Proestrus** – the stage before estrus. It lasts between 6 and 12 days, averaging 9 days. The vulva swells. A bloody discharge appears, marking the first day of proestrus. As proestrus progresses, the female becomes more restless, urinates more frequently and is prone to wandering. Do not let her out without supervision during this time. She will become more playful with male dogs but will not accept mating.
- 3. Estrus** - the period when the female accepts the male for breeding. The first day of estrus is considered to be when the female stands and lets the male mount and breed her, also referred to as standing heat. During estrus, the appearance of the vaginal discharge usually changes

from bloody to a light brownish-yellow, eventually becoming clear. Estrus typically lasts 5 to 9 days although it can be as short as 1 or 2 days or as long as 2 to 3 weeks. Ovulation (releasing of the egg) occurs during estrus with bitches typically having multiple ovulations. One mating is sufficient to cause pregnancy. However, because the female produces more than one egg, she might be fertilized by more than one male. This means that a litter may have more than one father.

During estrus, the bitch may actively pursue male dogs, she might turn her rear toward the male and “flag” her tail (hold it to one side). During estrus, the female produces strong pheromones (odours) that attract males. These pheromones can be detected from long distances by male dogs. It is important that you don’t let a female in estrus outside unsupervised. If you have an intact (unneutered) male dog in your house, keep the female confined in an area where he cannot get to her. If you crate her, make sure the male cannot get to the crate as it is possible he could breed her through the crate.

Dogs don’t breed like other animals. The male dog ‘ties’ with the female. This is when the penis glands swell and lock inside the female’s vagina. If the dog or the bitch panic and try to separate, severe damage can result to their sexual organs. It is not uncommon for females being bred for the first time to start a fight once they are tied. Always have an experience person involved.

4. Diestrus – the last stage of the estrous cycle. This period begins when the bitch will no longer accept will no longer accept the male mounting her. In pregnant females, diestrus immediately ends at the time of whelping. In non-pregnant bitches, it can last from 60 to 80 days. Hormonal changes continue during this time. There is some enlargement of the mammary glands. During this stage a non-pregnant female may experience a “false pregnancy” whether or not mating occurred. A false pregnancy can cause an increase in appetite and changes in behaviour such as making nests and mothering of toys and other objects.

Prior to Breeding

The bitch and the stud should both be up-to-date on all of their vaccinations and should be free from both internal and external parasites. A month before breeding, both dogs should be tested for brucellosis, a major cause of sterility and spontaneous abortion.

Diagnosing Pregnancy

Pregnancy in dogs can be diagnosed through:

- Palpation
- Radiographs
- Ultrasound
- Blood tests

Check It Out!

Search online for images of radiographs and ultrasound pictures of pregnant female dogs.

By the fifth week of gestation, a bitch shows physical signs of pregnancy. She is heavier, her stomach is larger, her back may be lower, her teats larger and she might lie around more.

After about six weeks of pregnancy, the female's food should be increased by 10% per week. Many start feeding extra food at four weeks. Some recommend that a pregnant and nursing dog should be put on puppy food until the puppies are weaned. Puppy food provides extra calories, calcium and other nutrients to help the mother and her puppies as she nurses.



Image Credit: Canine Whelping Box

One week before whelping, prepare a whelping box in which the dog can deliver her puppies. Place the whelping box in a quiet and comfortable area away from busy spaces where people are constantly entering and exiting. Let her get accustomed to this area so she realizes it is the place for her to whelp. A small plastic wading pool, the bottom half of a large plastic dog crate or the bottom half of a fiber-glass doghouse makes a good whelping box. She shouldn't have to jump in or out. Line the box with several layers of newspaper and cover with old towels and a thick blanket or a bathmat that you can wash. Roll bars (also sometimes called bumper pads) in the whelping box can help prevent larger dogs from laying on the puppies.

Signs of Whelping

The length of time a dog is pregnant is called the gestation period – the time from fertilization (conception) to whelping which is the process of giving birth (parturition). The normal gestation period for a dog lasts 63 days (9 weeks) from the date of the first breeding although gestation can range from 58 to 68 days.

Careful records must be kept of the breeding date. During the last week of gestation, the bitch's rectal temperature should be monitored twice daily. The normal rectal temperature of a dog is between 38.1°C (100.5°F) to 39.2°C (102.5°F). Usually, temperature drops to 37.8°F (100°F) and 38.1°C (100.5°F) one week before whelping. Then, 8 to 12 hours before she goes into labour, her temperature suddenly drops between 36.7°C (98°F) to 37.2°C (99°F).

Signs of approaching labour in most bitches includes:

- Restlessness
- Whining
- Relaxing and swelling of the external genitalia
- Nesting behaviour
- Desire for seclusion (privacy)
- Loss of appetite

The bitch may also:

- Shiver
- Pant
- Scratch
- Rearrange nesting material – scratching and digging
- Show obvious signs of discomfort

The vulva may soften and swell, and a thick, sticky, clear substance might appear. Pre-labour lasts an average of 6 hours but may last 2 to 36 hours.

Having a good relationship with your veterinarian during this time is very important. Make sure you are able to call your vet clinic and get assistance at any time of day or night. Do this before your dog goes into labour so you know how to contact them for help should any complications with whelping arise. If a female's gestation goes a day or two past the 63 days, have her examined by your veterinarian.

Active or Hard Labour

Labour has begun when the female has uterine contractions which are indicated by straining as if she is trying to have a bowel movement. A puppy should be born within 20 minutes to one hour after the hard labour starts. If a puppy doesn't appear within an hour after the beginning of active labour, call your veterinarian.

Delivery

Puppies may be born either head first or hind feet first (breech birth). Either way is normal for dogs. When a puppy is born, the bitch should instinctively break the amniotic sac that the puppy is contained in with her teeth and eat it. If she doesn't, the puppy will smother in the amniotic fluid. The placenta is usually expelled within 15 minutes of the puppy being born. The bitch usually eats the placenta and severs the umbilical cord. She may not eat all of the placentas however and if she eats very many, she may have black diarrhea for several days after whelping. Whether she eats them or not, you should count them to make sure she expels one for each puppy. If not, notify your veterinarian as they will need to remove the placentas so they don't decay inside the female and cause a severe infection.

Reach Out!

Ask a veterinarian to be a part of your meeting. Find out what the veterinarian might do if birthing (parturition) doesn't go as it should.

Research It!

If birthing doesn't go as planned, a caesarian section (c-section) surgery may have to be performed. Research to find out what this is and how this surgery is performed on dogs.

Experience It!

There are many YouTube videos online of puppies being born. View one or two ahead of time and determine if this is an appropriate activity for your group.

If the bitch doesn't break the amniotic sac, you must do it, cleaning the membrane from the puppy's head, nostrils and mouth. You should also stimulate the puppy to breathe by rubbing it.

If the mother doesn't sever the umbilical cord, you will need to do this. Before you cut the cord, tie a piece of cotton thread or unwaxed dental floss very tightly around it about 4cm from the puppy's abdomen. Then cut the cord on the mother's side of the tie. The bitch then licks the puppy clean. When cleaning the puppy, she will roll him around some, which stimulates respiration and circulation.

If the dam (mother) ignores the puppy, you must dry the puppy with a towel and stimulate respiration and circulation by gently moving him from hand to hand. If the puppy does not start breathing, open its mouth and make sure it is free of any membrane or fluid. If it seems to be filled with fluid, hold the puppy's head and body firmly, head pointed down, then jerk the puppy downward and stop suddenly as though you are shaking down a thermometer. This should cause any liquid to come out.

Subsequent puppies should be born anywhere from a few minutes to an hour apart. Call your veterinarian if the mother is straining or appears in pain for longer than an hour.

If there are many pups, the whelping box becomes very wet. Clean, dry newspapers should be substituted for the wet papers if they can be exchanged without disturbing the dam. It is of the utmost importance that the pups do not become chilled. Puppies that become thoroughly chilled often die. The whelping area should be warm with no drafts. For added warmth, place a heating pad under one section of the whelping box or a heat lamp several feet above the puppies.

Postpartum Care

Postpartum care means the care after whelping. Allow the bitch to eat a small amount of food after she is finished whelping. Check her temperature twice daily and if it is higher than 39.2°C (102.5°F), call your veterinarian. This may be a sign of infection. If she seems listless, doesn't pay attention to her puppies or exhibits other abnormal behaviours, call your veterinarian.

Puppies should begin nursing within the first hours of birth. Most seek a nipple shortly after being born. If a puppy doesn't do this, hold it to one of the dam's nipples and try to get it to suck.

The puppy should have its first bowel movement, called meconium, within the first hour after being born. The bitch should lick the anus or vulva of puppies to stimulate urination and defecation. If she doesn't, rub a warm, damp cotton ball around the anus and vulva to stimulate these excrements.

The first milk the bitch produces is called colostrum. Colostrum is a thick, creamy milk that is rich in antibodies which provides passive immunity to the puppies for the diseases for which the bitch has immunity for. It is imperative that the puppies receive the colostrum in order to have strong, healthy puppies. Puppies have the ability to absorb the antibodies provided

in colostrum during the first 24 hours of birth. This steadily decreases until after 48 hours they digest the antibodies like other proteins in the milk. Your veterinarian might recommend booster vaccinations for the bitch before breeding to increase the concentration of antibodies she passes to the puppies

Since the dam is now producing milk, you may need to double her food intake. Talk to your veterinarian to make sure the dam is getting enough calories. You can feed her in the birthing box so she doesn't have to leave her babies.



Puppies should be handled as little as possible for the first two weeks after birth. Most dams do not like anyone to handle their puppies at this age. They need warm, dry, peaceful surroundings and plenty of sleep. Healthy puppies are eating or sleeping for the first two weeks of life. It is normal for them to jerk and twitch while asleep, as this helps them strengthen their muscles. The puppies will have closed eyes and ears, but they can smell and find their way to the teats for milk.

Weigh each puppy after birth as soon as they are dry. Then weigh them each day when the dam goes out to the bathroom to make sure they are continuing to gain weight. If a puppy is small at birth and needs supplemental feeding, consult your veterinarian for directions. Puppies are fast growing, doubling their birth weight in about one week and tripling it in two weeks. A puppy's eyes should start to open between 10 to 14 days.

Research It!

What happens if the dam doesn't produce any colostrum (or doesn't have enough) or if something happens to the dam during the whelping process? Is there somewhere near you to be able to get canine colostrum?

Feeding Puppies

At three to four weeks of age, the puppies should be offered food consisting of three parts water to one part dry puppy food (sometimes referred to as gruel) in a shallow-rimmed dish. Don't use a deep dish for their feed or water. The puppies could fall in and drown.

After the puppies are eating the gruel well, gradually decrease the amount of water until by six weeks of age the puppies are eating dry puppy food. They should be fed three times a day until they stop eating the middle feeding. After that, feed them twice a day throughout the rest of their lives. Depending on the breed, most puppies can be switched to adult food at one year of age.



*Image Credit: Aspiring Service Dog Chronicles
<https://aspiringservicedogchronicles.wordpress.com>*

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Weaning

Puppies are typically weaned from their mothers when they are six to seven weeks old. They should already be eating dry puppy food and drinking water free choice (also called ad libitum). At this age, the puppies are also learning to socialize with their litter mates.

Experience It!

Arrange for a visit to a breeder to see newborn puppies.

To wean the puppies, take them away from their mother and provide them with food and water. The bitch will be uncomfortable for a few days until her milk supply begins to dry up. Withhold food from her for 24 hours after weaning to help decrease her milk supply.

Some bitches begin weaning puppies as early as five weeks. They growl and snap at the puppies when they try to nurse. Beside meeting the puppies' nutritional requirements, this is why it is important to have the puppies started on gruel and then solid puppy food.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Your Dog's Life Prior to Life with You

Create a summary of how your dog came to live with you. Did it come from a breeder? A shelter? What details do you have about your dog's life before it lived with you? Record any details you have about your dog and its life prior to becoming a member of your house.

If you don't own a dog, interview someone who has a dog and find out

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Not everyone believes in feeding commercial dry dog food to their dogs. If a breeder purchases another type of food (e.g. raw diet) or prepares dog food themselves for their dams and sires, what would they feed to newborn puppies that they want to switch onto solid food? Do some research to find alternative foods for weaning puppies other than commercial dry dog foods. How do these alternatives stack up to commercial dry dog foods?

ACTIVITY #1

BREEDING & PUPPIES

DO	<p>Time: 2 Hours</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camera or cell phone with camera capabilities• A list of questions for the breeder• Writing utensils <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrange for a visit to a local breeder (or two breeders if their facilities are in close proximity to each other)• Ask members to create a list of questions for the breeder (before the visit)• Ask members to bring their camera and take pictures of the birth box and tools, such as weigh scales for weighing newborns, pregnant dogs and puppies• Have members write down the answers to the questions they have for the breeder
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to observe and experience the tools and supplies necessary for breeding.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What differences do you see between one type of breeder and another?• Do you think you could design a birthing box? Would it look any different than the ones you saw on the tour?• What kind of bedding is best for birthing boxes?• How often do you think the birthing boxes need to be cleaned?• What makes a thoughtful, ethical breeder?

SECTION 3D – GROOMING FOR YOUR DOG’S HEALTH

Setting Objectives

Every dog benefits from being groomed regularly. Depending on the dog, different grooming techniques, different tools and how often grooming needs to be done will vary. Grooming is a great way to bond with your dog while also being a responsible dog owner by caring for the well-being of your furry friend.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To be able to identify various types of dog coats
- To identify grooming equipment and know how it is used
- To understand why grooming is important for your dog
- To become comfortable with grooming a dog

Roll Calls

- Name one tool used for grooming a dog.
- Name one reason why it’s important to groom a dog.
- Do you help to groom your dog? What part of grooming do you do?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 1 hours 40 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Coat Type <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth Coat • Medium Coat • Long Coat • Wire Coat • Curly Coat • Hairless Coat Brushing, Combing and Grooming Tools Tooth Care Feet and Nails Ears Bathing <u>Activities</u> A Well-Groomed Dog Shopping for Dogs	60 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Groomer for Your Dog	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Grooming

Grooming is a good time for creating a good, bonding relationship with your dog. It also gives you an opportunity to examine your dog carefully for any injuries, growths, skin conditions or parasites. Your dog will also learn discipline by practising to behave during grooming. It develops patience between you and your dog and grooming will show your dog that you care about it.



Image Credit: The Spruce Pets <https://www.thesprucepets.com>

Do It!

Make a plan to groom your dog every morning for five minutes. Try it for a week. Describe your experience.

Touch your dog all over from the time that it is a puppy. If you get your dog when it is older, once it becomes familiar with its new surroundings, slowly get your dog used to being petted and touched anywhere on its body. Play with his feet and nails, check its teeth and look into its ears. Give your dog lots of rewards for letting you examine it.

Start your dog from the time you get it, even if its coat isn't dirty or matted. Brush its teeth for just a few seconds or trim one nail at a time to begin with to make the experience less frightening.

Coat Type

Dogs come in all different coat types, depending on their breed or mix of breeds. Before you start grooming your dog, understand his coat type. Coat type is an important consideration when choosing your pet because different coat types require different grooming techniques.

These techniques may take a lot of time or cost a lot of money if you are paying a groomer. Learn about the basic coat types before selecting your puppy or dog. There are six basic coat types and each coat type has specific needs for grooming:

1. **Smooth Coat** – this coat is shiny and sleek. It lies so close to the skin that when you look at the dog’s silhouette (shadow) you might not even notice the coat. Smooth coats are easy to groom. All you have to do is brush, the coat will shine and the dog is ready to go.

Smooth coats don’t offer much protection from the elements (such as sun, wind, snow or cold) compared to other coat types but they also don’t attract burrs, they don’t catch in underbrush and they don’t tangle or mat. Dogs with smooth coats are easier to care for in many ways. It is easy to see and treat cuts and sores and to find and remove parasites. Most of the time smooth coats shed dried mud and debris by shaking. Some smooth-coated breeds have single coats and some have double coats. The undercoats of double-coated breeds should not show through the outer coat.

To groom this coat, use a rubber brush, bristle brush or hound glove to remove dead hair. Follow with a bristle brush and end with a chamois cloth to shine the coat.

Examples of smooth coated breeds include Bull Terriers and Dachshunds.

2. **Medium Coat** – this coat is also easy to groom. It is usually longer than 2.5cm but it is still not considered a long coat. Medium coats don’t generally develop mats although thick, double coats of this length can develop mats if they are not brushed out at least once a week. In medium-coated dogs, the coat will show as part of their silhouette. These breeds are generally shown in natural form in the show ring, rather than requiring lots of trimming and styling.

While medium-coated breeds may differ greatly from one breed to another, they all have a thick, weather resistant coat that evolved for survival in the elements (ice and snow, underbrush or water). Many working and herding dogs have medium coats as these are easy to care for and don’t interfere with their work but they are thick enough to provide protection against cold and rain. Double-coated medium-length coats are extra warm and water-repellent.

Use a slicker brush to remove loose hairs from the undercoat. Remove any tangles that are left with a medium-tooth comb.

Examples of medium-coated breeds include the Border Collie, Husky and Rottweiler.

3. Long Coat – grooming this type of dog is time consuming but the final product is also rewarding. A long coat is a lot like human hair in that it needs to be brushed and combed. Some believe that herding dogs tended to have long, white coats to be able to blend in better with flocks of sheep and sheep-like coats offered protection from the elements. Some toy dogs have evolved to have long, luxurious coats for the sake of the amusement of the royalty that kept and bred them and to make them look regal and pampered.

Long coats need grooming at least every other day. Brush and comb them to make sure all tangles are removed. Using a conditioner will help to prevent mats and tangles.

To groom a long coat, divide it into small sections and use a slicker brush to remove loose hairs, mats and tangles. Be sure to thoroughly brush out the undercoat, not just the outer coat or it will tangle and mat. A rake can be used to remove loose hair in the undercoat. When finished with the slicker brush, use a wide-toothed comb to remove any remaining tangles. Finish with a bristle brush for long, silky coats. Use a pin brush to finish dogs with thicker, fuller coats.

Examples of long-coated dogs include the Shih Tzu, Lhasa Apso, Yorkshire Terrier, Maltese.

4. Wire Coat – also known as broken coat, this coat has a hard, coarse and wiry texture. Many terrier breeds have wire coats and so do a few sporting dogs and hounds. Wire coats are extremely weather-resistant. This coat offers protection from burrs and dirt which is beneficial as many of the dogs in this group hunt and burrow.

If you plan to show the dog in breed shows or want a professional look, the wirehaired coat should be stripped or plucked, a process in which dead hairs are pulled by hand or with a stripping knife. Shaving a wire coat with electric clippers results in a coat with a softer, less characteristic texture. This type of clip is more common for pet dogs.

Use a slicker brush following by a comb.

Examples or wire-coated dogs include Airedales and Irish Wolfhounds.

5. Curly Coat – there are only a few breeds that have curly coats. These coats are a challenge to groom. Grooming the curly coat is difficult and takes practice. The poodle is a curly-coated breed with many different kinds of clips. Curly coats grow back quickly.

Some curly-coated breeds have hair in the form of dreadlocks or cords. Curly coats are common in water dogs as they are very effective at repelling water and insulating from the cold.

Groom using a slicker brush on the areas with shorter hair and a pin brush on the longer hairs. Follow with a wide-tooth comb to make sure there are no tangles left. Poodles should be clipped every six to ten weeks.

Examples of curly-coated dogs include the Puli, Komondor, Bichon Frise and Poodles.

6. **Hairless coat** - dogs with a hairless coat are just that – hairless. The Chinese Crested dog has tufts of hair on the head, legs and tail but none on the body. Just because these dogs have no hair though does not mean they don't need to be groomed. They may not need brushing, but they do need bathing. If the dog will be going outside, you will also need to use a gentle sunblock SPF 15 or higher.

Examples of hairless dogs include the Mexican Hairless, Chinese Crested and Inca Orchid.

Brushing, Combing and Grooming Tools

When brushing or combing your dog, start at the bottom of its legs and work upwards. Comb in the direction the hair lays, being careful around sensitive areas. When brushing a dog, care needs to be taken to make sure to brush all the way down the skin, without scratching the skin. Start at the outer ends of the hair, gradually working down the length of the hair to the skin, continuing to brush from base to tip. Carefully separate tangles without pulling on the hair. Pay special attention to those areas where two parts of the body rub together, such as behind the ears, under the elbows, in the groin and between the toes as they are the first to mat. All dogs need to be brushed to remove dead hair and to distribute oil to the ends of the hair. The type of brush required depends on the type of the dog's coat.

Discuss It!

What type of hair coat does your dog have?

Reach Out!

Invite a groomer to your meeting to discuss various tools used for grooming and to demonstrate proper grooming techniques.

Below is a list of grooming equipment and their uses:

Brushes



Image Credit: <https://pinterest.ca>

- Bristle brush – this basic brush is excellent for regular brushing. Natural bristle brushes are softer, gentler and less likely to cause static electricity in a dog’s coat. Use a bristle brush to remove loose hair and distribute natural oil from the skin down the hair shaft, promoting a healthy, shiny coat.
- Slicker brush – this brush has densely set wire teeth effective at removing mats and dead coat from long, wire and curly-coated dogs. Slicker brushes are great when your dog is blowing coat (a process where their coats switch from their winter coat to their summer coat) because this brush efficiently removes large amounts of dead hair. However, they can pull out some of the live hair and therefore are not ideal for show dogs who want to maintain luxurious coats. These brushes are excellent for grooming heavy shedders around the house as they get rid of maximum amounts of hair with minimal effort.
- Curved slicker brush – this brush is curved with heavier pins. It works well on heavily long-coated dogs, such as the Old English Sheepdog.
- Pin brush – this brush comes in many sizes and shapes from small for use on toy dogs to large for use on Collies, etc. It is excellent for separating the coat and removing loose hair.

brushes help detangle long, tangle-prone coats and work well on hard wire coats for an overall brushing prior to hand stripping. The tipped pins also stimulate the skin.

- *Combination brush* – this is a combination pin and bristle brush with one side used as pin brush and the other side as a bristle brush.
- *Rubber brush* – this brush is great for removing dust and loose hair on short-haired breeds. These oval-shaped rubber brushes are perfect for smooth coats because they polish the coat and remove dead hair, minimizing shedding. The rounded “bristles” (that look like small nobs) are gentle on the sensitive skin of smooth-coated breeds.
- *Hound glove* – these gloves, which slip over your hand, are covered on one side with natural bristles. Rub these gloves over your smooth-coated dog to remove dead hair efficiently, brightening and shining the coat.
- *Undercoat rake* – this is excellent for loosening up the coat and removing the dead undercoat. It works especially well on breeds like the German Shepherd or Collie.
- *Chamois cloth* – this is used to polish and shine coats of short-haired dogs.

Combs

Combs come in many shapes and styles. The most commonly used comb is the fine-medium combination. It is important that the comb is comfortable in your hand and the teeth are properly spaced for the particular coat you are working on. Combs work through the coat to remove any last traces of tangle and they also double as flea combs to help remove parasites and flea dirt when present. In dogs prone to static electricity, try a wooden comb.

- *Mat comb* – these combs are designed to cut through mats without destroying the coat. They have a heavier tooth, are sharp on one side and can be re-sharpened. Left-handed groomers can use these combs with ease as the comb is reversible. Some mat combs have only one tooth and have replaceable razor blades in them. Mat combs must be kept in good condition and used with great care.
- *Shedding blade* – this is only used to remove loose hair, pulling out the topcoat and undercoat.
- *Stripping blade* – this comes in fine, medium and coarse styles. The fine style of stripping blade is used on the head, ears and areas where hair is fine and delicate. Medium and coarse blades are usually used on the body.

Scissors



Image Credit: <https://diydoggrooming.com/dog-grooming-scissors/>

These come in various sizes, from tiny ear and nose scissors to long, straight grooming shears. Scissors must be well-balanced and comfortable to use as they should hold an edge well. Select ones that can be re-sharpened. Since everyone has a personal preference for a particular style of scissor, select yours with care.

- **Thinning shears** – the type of thinning shear you use depends on the type of coat you are working on. Styles include those with a double or single edge and 30 to 46 teeth.

Clippers

Electric clippers, various types of clipper blades and clipper combs are used when grooming dogs for cosmetic reasons or show cuts.

Do It!

Research the standard haircut for your dog's breed. Find pictures to share with the rest of the group.



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca/en/Raising-My-Dog/Grooming>

Nail Clippers

- *Nail clippers (guillotine style)* – these come in small size for toy and small dogs, regular size for most medium-sized dogs and an extra-large size larger breeds.
- *Nail clippers (scissor style)* – the scissor style is recommended for small dogs and cats. The extra-large scissor style nail clipper is good for dewclaws that grow very long.
- *Nail clippers (pliers-type)* – these come in various sizes and are sometimes preferred for ease of handling.
- *Nail file* – used after trimming nails to smooth any sharp or rough edges.
- *Nail grinder or dremel* – this powered instrument with a sandpaper or stone file is used to shape toenails, getting rid of rough edges and offering more control.



Image Credit: All Things Dogs <https://www.allthingsdogs.com/best-dog-nail-grinder/>

Using a nail grinder

- *Styptic powder* – using a cotton swab, this powder is used to quickly stop bleeding caused by accidentally cutting into the quick in the toenail.

Feet and Nails

When you are relaxing with your dog, massage or just hold its feet and play with its nails. You need to get your dog used to having their feet and nails handled. The first time you groom your dog's feet and nails, be sure to have help. If your dog doesn't like his nails being trimmed, your helper can give your dog a treat, such as peanut butter to lick (make sure the ingredients in the peanut butter are safe for your dog), to keep your dog's mind off of



Image Credit: <https://www.doghealth.com/brush>

of having its nail trimmed. Always reward your dog when you are finished for appropriate behaviour by petting, praising, playing or giving treats. Ignore or remove yourself from any bad behaviours.

All long-coated breeds need the hair between the pads trimmed so it does not cover the pads. This cuts down on the dirt tracked into the house, prevents painful ice and mud balls from forming between the pads and aids in traction on slippery floors. Use blunt-ended scissors to trim away this excess hair.

While checking the feet for hair between the pads, check the toenails. The easiest way to keep the nails shortened is to trim a little off weekly. If the dog has white nails, it is fairly easy to see the quick in the nail. The quick is the pink area comprised of a blood vessel and nerve. Nicking this is painful for the dog and it will bleed. To stop the bleeding, use a styptic pen or styptic powder. If you don't have these available to you, apply pressure at the top of the nail until bleeding stops. If your dog has a black nail, use the other nails on the paw as a guide for how far back to trim the nail. For dogs with all black nails, it is best just to trim the points off weekly. As the dog puts pressure on the nails by walking, it causes the quick to recede so that a similar amount can be taken off the next time.

A nail file should be used to file any rough edges after clipping. Another method for shortening the nails is to use a grinder to file down the nail. It takes a little practice to get the dog used to the noise, smell and pressure but you are less likely make the dog's nails bleed. Some dogs prefer the grinder to nail trimmers.

Research It!

Styptic powder or a styptic pen is a must have for anyone who trims their pet's nails. Where can this be purchased and what is the cost?

Check It Out!

Look online for videos from reputable sources that demonstrate the proper way to brush a dog's teeth.

Tooth Care

Since dogs can't brush their teeth themselves, they are dependent on us to help keep their teeth clean. This should be done several times a week. There are different types of toothbrushes available that are specially designed for dogs. You can also use a soft-bristled human toothbrush that easily fits into your dog's mouth. Rubber tipped finger brushes also work well but be careful as your dog might bite down on this and your finger is inside.

Use only toothpaste that is formulated for dogs. Humans spit when brushing their teeth while dogs swallow when their teeth are brushed. The fluoride and foam in human toothpaste is not meant to be swallowed and can be harmful to your dog. Some human toothpastes also contain xylitol, a sugar-free sweetener, that is very harmful to your dog and can be fatal.



Dog toothpaste, toothbrush and finger brush

Image Credit: <https://www.walmart.com>

Check It Out!

Look online for videos from reputable sources that demonstrate the proper way to brush a dog's teeth.

Ears

In addition to checking behind the ears for mats, inspect the inside of the ears. Ears should be cleaned with an ear cleansing solution put on a cotton ball or piece of gauze. If the ears are inflamed (red), have an odour or discharge, your dog should be seen by a veterinarian since these might be an indication of an ear infection or ear mites.

Some dogs grow excess hair in the ear canal. Small amounts of hair can be plucked out to create an opening, allowing for better air circulation. Excess hair will be easier to pluck if a little ear powder is sprinkled in the ear canal before you start. Your groomer, veterinarian or breeder can show you how to safely remove the hair.

Bathing

All dogs need to be bathed periodically when they become dirty or smell bad. Use a shampoo that is specifically formulated for dogs and for the type of bathing your dog needs. If your dog has any abnormal skin issues, it is important to talk to your veterinarian or trusted groomer to ensure you are using the right product on your pet.



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

Experience It!

Make a homemade shampoo for your dog. What needs to be considered when choosing a recipe? Search for a shampoo recipe that will work for your dog.

Too frequent bathing can lead to skin and coat health issues. Dogs have a distinct coat/skin odour associated with their skin's natural body oils and bacteria. This combination creates a specific pH that maintains a healthy skin. Bathing too often or using inappropriate shampoos can alter the natural state of a dog's coat or skin and can lead to dry skin, excessive shedding, itchiness and other issues.

The steps below should be followed to have a successful experience bathing your dog.

1. Before preparing the bath water, brush all of the tangles and mats from your dog's coat first. Water just makes the tangles tighter and harder to get out.
2. Gather the equipment needed for bathing (shampoo, brush or comb, cotton balls, towel, mat, sprayer and dryer).
3. Put a rubber or non-slip mat in the bottom of the tub.
4. Put a cotton ball in each ear to protect it from the water.
5. Lift the dog into the tub.
6. Thoroughly wet the dog using a sprayer or pitcher, beginning at its legs. The bath water should be about 38°C (100°F) or comfortable to the touch.
7. Apply the shampoo to the dog's body and work it all the way into the skin.
8. Shampoo the dog's head, taking care to keep water out of its ears.
9. Rinse and towel dry your dog's head.
10. Rinse your dog's body. Make sure there is no soap left on the dog. Soap dries the skin, dulls the coat and causes the dog to scratch.
11. Squeeze excess water from the dog's coat. Lift the dog from the tub and towel dry.
12. Remove the cotton balls from the ears.
13. If desired, blow dry and brush your dog's hair. When using a blow dryer, be careful to keep the air flow moving. Do not get it too close to the skin or you might burn the dog.

Why does a dog shiver when being bathed? The dog's fur acts as an insulation layer and keeps the warmth in or the cold out. When the dog's hair coat is soaked, it temporarily loses its insulation power.

To ensure your dog won't be chilled after its bath, remove excess water and blot the body dry with a towel. Use a hair dryer if desired to speed up the process, using care as outlined above in step #13. You can also allow the dog to dry naturally but wrap a towel around your dog to help create an insulation barrier until the hair is dry.

Dog Fashion - Pretty or Practical?

Some breeds of dogs have a difficult time in Canadian winters. Just as equestrians might put a blanket on their horse during the winter, dog owners can put coats or blankets that look like a horse blanket on their dogs. The options are endless from hoodies to raincoats to boots.

Clothes for dogs can be practical but caution must be used when dressing a dog, especially for reasons other than the cold. Clothing can be harmful as dogs can overheat and with clothes on, your dog may not be able to communicate with other dogs.

Look It Up!

Looking in flyers, magazines or online, find clothing that is practical for dogs living in Canada with the various seasons that are found in this country. Gather as many pictures as you can and show your findings to the rest of the group.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Find out where the closest groomer is in your area. For your particular breed of dog, find out how much it would cost for a typical grooming session for your dog. Be prepared to share your findings at the next meeting.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

The pet fashion industry has become big business, even though many dog outfits are not put on dogs for practical reasons. There are a number of factors that have caused this. List at three reasons why this industry has grown and, overall, if this is in the best interest of the dog. Be prepared to share your findings at the next meeting.

DIGGING DEEPER II

For senior members

Grooming is a growing industry for dogs. What type of training does someone need to be a dog groomer? Find out what training is available, how long the course is, how much it costs and if there is an apprentice program along with the course. Be prepared to share your findings at the next meeting.

DIGGING DEEPER III

For senior members

Is this extreme dog grooming harmless fun or a threat to pets? What is your opinion of this? Are there other extreme dog grooming techniques that don't involve dyeing the dog's hair? Be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting. If you find more pictures of other dogs that have been groomed in a similar way, bring those pictures to share with the group.



Image Credit: BBC <https://www.bbc.com>

ACTIVITY #1

A WELL-GROOMED DOG

DO

Time: 60 Minutes

Materials Needed:

- Each member will be asked to bring their dog's grooming supplies

Instructions:

- Ask members to bathe their dogs at home the day of or the day before the meeting.
- Have enough space for each member to spread out their grooming tools and place their dogs for grooming. If members are going to put their dogs on a table, make sure the surface has a non-slippery mat and a grooming arm with an appropriate noose. The dog must be secured on the table to prevent jumping or falling off and causing injury. The dog must be attended to at all times while it is on the table.

If desired, demonstrate on one dog first and then let members work individually on their dogs.

- Have members evaluate hair types for each dog and consult on the best grooming approach for one another's dogs.

Special Notes: If parasites are found, make sure you deal with them appropriately and let members know that it isn't unusual. If there are fleas, the member should be directed to speak with their parents about flea powder and cleaning the home. Dogs with fleas should not be brought into a group environment. The parents of all of the member's who brought dogs should be let known that there was a dog in the same space as their dog that had fleas so they can take appropriate measures. If a tick is found, the member's parents should also be informed so they can have it removed immediately.

REFLECT

Learning Outcomes:

To create an awareness among members about their responsibility for their dog's grooming.

To be able to identify different type of hair coats.

To be able to identify and know what different grooming tools are used for.

To understand the importance of and be able to perform good grooming practices.

APPLY

Processing Prompts:

- Why should you groom your dog?
- How often do you groom your dog?
- Does your dog like being groomed? Why or why not? How can you make the experience better for your dog?
- Did you learn anything new from watching and talking with other members about their grooming experiences?
- Are there supplies that you realize you need or would like to have to better groom your dog?
- Is it okay to share supplies between different dogs? How can we prevent the spread of fleas, ticks and other pests?

ACTIVITY #2

SHOPPING FOR DOGS

DO	<p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper and markers <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The goal of this activity is to have members come up with an interesting gift for their dog. Tell members they have \$50 total to spend on this gift(s).• Have members brainstorm a few ideas of gifts they think their dog would like and then start price checking items. Have them use the Internet, magazines, catalogues and books and/or take a trip to a store to compare prices.• Have members write down the items and the prices of the items they intend to buy. <p><i>NOTE:</i> Buying clothing that helps the dog endure cold winters might be appropriate as might a special toothbrush or a special toothpaste.</p>
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify items needed for their dog and the cost associated with that item to help create a realization of some of the costs of owning a dog.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do you think the item you chose is the perfect gift for your dog?• How much of the \$50 is left that you started with at the beginning of the activity?• Do you pay for your dog's expenses now? Is budgeting for dog expenses something you'll be willing to do when it isn't your parents paying?• How will you save for costs like unexpected visits to the veterinarian• Was there something you wanted to buy that cost more than \$50?

CANINE NUTRITION & EXERCISE



SECTION 4 – CANINE NUTRITION & EXERCISE

Setting Objectives

When left alone, many dogs will eat almost anything they can find. But what should dogs be eating? What and how much a dog eats plays a huge role in maintaining its health. Like humans, dogs have complex dietary needs. Knowing what types of food, how much and how often you should feed your dog is imperative to being a responsible dog owner.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand the importance of good nutrition for a dog
- To be able to identify the six nutrients for dogs
- To be able to identify different types of dog foods
- To understand how to read a dog food label
- To learn how much dog food to feed and how often
- To realize the importance of not feeding foods that may be harmful to dogs
- To understand the importance of exercise for both dogs and humans

Roll Calls

- Why type of dog food do you feed to your dog? (i.e. dry, canned, raw, homemade)
- Name one food that is harmful and potentially fatal to your dog.
- Does your dog receive dog treats? If so, what kind of treats?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Nutrition Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Nutrients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Carbohydrates • Fats • Protein • Vitamins • Minerals Types of Dog Food Reading Dog Food Labels How Much to Feed How Often to Feed Foods to Avoid Treats Exercise <u>Activities</u> Dog Food Diary Homemade Dog Treats	80 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Dog Feeding Journal	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Nutrition

There are many thoughts and opinions about what a dog's balanced diet should consist of. The reality is that every dog is different and that sometimes a diet will be a little different for different dogs. However, there are nutrients that every dog requires for a healthy life. Feeding your dog an appropriate high-quality diet is essential for maintaining its health. Poorly fed dogs lack the energy and stamina to keep up with an active training program, are more likely to suffer skin and coat problems and are more susceptible to illness and the effects of stress.

Dogs should be fed complete and balanced diets that are guaranteed to contain the nutrients they need. Dogs are best fed meat-based foods. Feeding table scraps or unbalanced homemade diets increases the likelihood of nutrient deficiencies or excesses that may be harmful to the animal's health.

Choosing the right diet involves considering the dog's life stage (puppy, adult, pregnant or senior), lifestyle and body condition. Young animals need foods that provide ample calories, protein and minerals to fuel their growth. Because younger dogs have more limited stomach volume, their foods must contain a high concentration of nutrients in each feeding.

Adult dogs generally need less concentrated nutrition, unless they are stressed, working, pregnant or nursing. Each of these conditions increases nutrient needs and is best addressed by feeding a diet formulated with those special needs in mind.

Older dogs, like older humans, have special nutritional considerations that result from the effects of aging. They may have problems maintaining muscle mass and desired body weight, may be more picky eaters or have trouble eating and may be more likely to develop certain diseases. When a dog approaches its golden years, it's a good idea to reassess the diet choice and make sure what's being fed is adequate to support continued good health.

Animals that are too thin should be fed diets that supply extra calories until the ideal body weight is reached. Conversely, animals that are overweight should be fed fewer calories. A veterinarian should evaluate any animal that has problems maintaining appropriate body condition.

Making sure your dog is eating an appropriate high-quality diet is a critical step in keeping it healthy, happy and able to play and perform. Proper feeding is evident in a shiny coat, strong muscles, firm stools and an alert, ready, enthusiastic attitude.

Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

Body condition scoring (BCS) is a way to standardize the assessment of whether dogs are underweight, overweight or just the right weight. Body condition scoring helps determine if a dog's growth rate and feeding amounts are correct to help prevent obesity. BCS is also used to ensure a dog is gaining the amount of weight he should be for his age, breed characteristics and activity level.

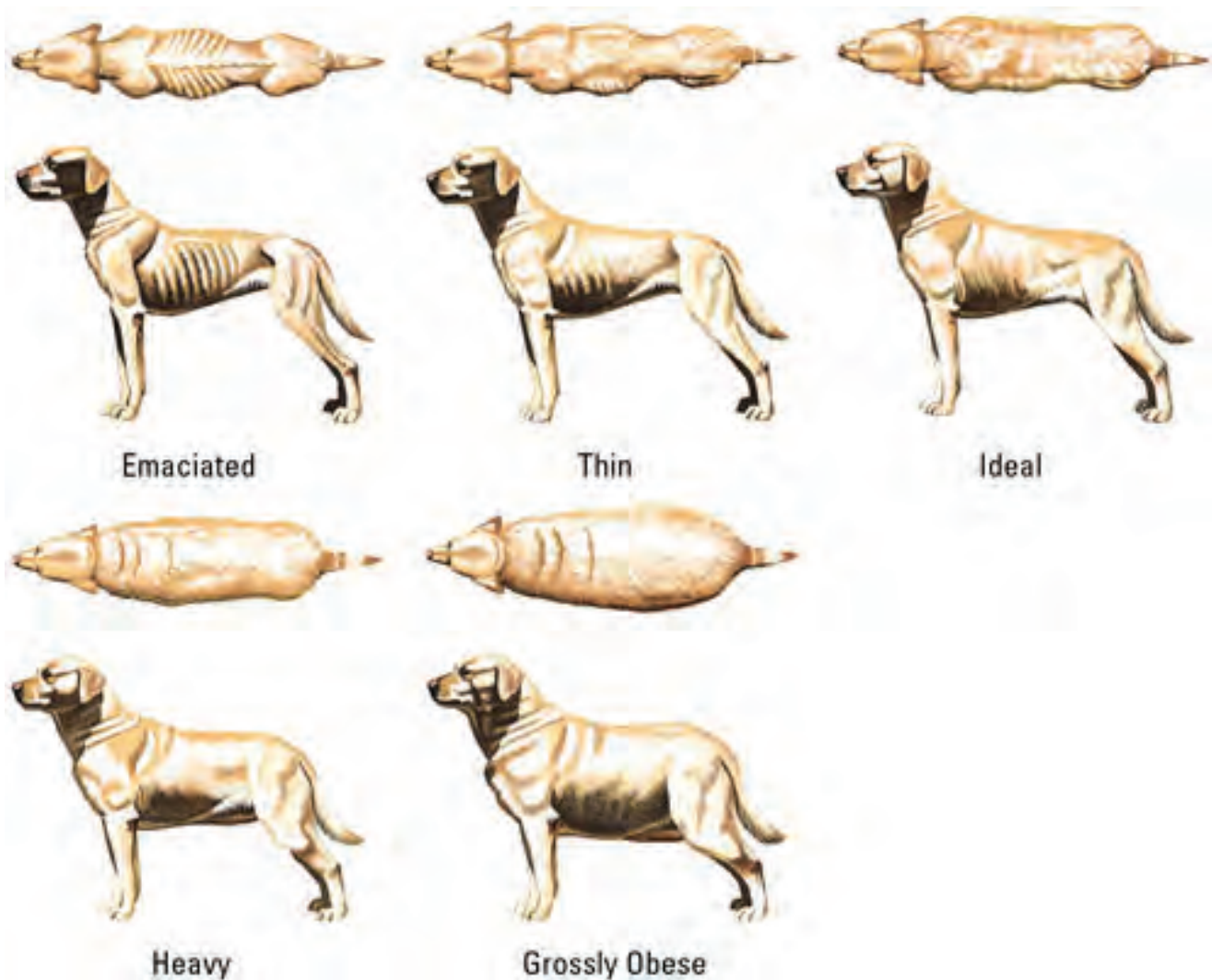


Image Credit: Courtesy of Nestle Purina PetCare Co.

Body condition scoring is useful as it allows veterinarians and dog owners to have a common understanding of a dog's weight. It can be used to suggest a target weight for a dog, allowing for the target weight to be customized for that specific dog rather than just suggesting a breed average, as there are a range of shapes and sizes within individual breeds. BCS is also used to define dogs at risk. There are several diseases dogs can get where risk or severity of the disease is worsened if the dog is obese.

Questions to help with body condition scoring:

- What are the signs of an overweight dog?
- Is it difficult to feel your dog's ribs or spine?
- Is it difficult to see your dog's waist?
- Is your dog's abdomen sagging?
- Does your dog's face look more round with larger cheeks?
- Does your dog often appear tired and lazy?
- Does your dog lag behind on walks?
- Does your dog pant constantly?
- Does your dog need help getting into the car?
- Does your dog resist playing games?
- Does your dog bark without getting up?

Do It!

Refer to the Body Condition Scoring Chart to help determine your dog's BCS.

While any of these questions on their own may not necessarily indicate that your dog is over-weight, the questions as a whole can help you look at your total dog to make that determination.

Nutrients

A nutrient is a substance that nourishes the metabolic processes of the body. Nutrients for dogs are grouped in six categories:

- Water
- Carbohydrates
- Fats
- Protein
- Vitamins
- Minerals

Your dog's nutritional health depends on receiving the correct amounts and proportions of nutrients from the six required groups.

Water

Water is the **most** important nutrient. Water is essential for the functioning of normal body processes, regulating body temperature and for proper utilization and absorption of nutrients. Dog die faster from lack of water than from the lack of any other dietary substance.

On average, normal adult dogs require about 60mL of water per kilogram of body weight per day to maintain good health. What and how much a dog eats, humidity, temperature, exercise and work, growth, gestation and lactation all play a part in how much water a dog drinks each day. Dogs that eat canned diets normally drink less water than dogs that eat dry dog food.

Figure It Out!

How many litres of water, on average, should your dog drink per day?

Carbohydrates

The main function of carbohydrates is to provide the dog with energy. Carbohydrates are necessary for the metabolism of other nutrients. They supply the cells with glucose, which is the normal source of energy used by cells in the body. Simple carbohydrates, such as sugars and starches, are quickly converted to glucose, providing the dog with immediate energy. Sources of carbohydrates are sugars, starches and dietary fibre. Simple sugars are the least complex and most easily digested and absorbed. Starches are complex carbohydrates which require more digestion before they can be absorbed into the bloodstream. Dietary fibres are digestible by dogs.

Cereal grains make up a large portion of carbohydrates in dog food. Processing cereal grains by cooking, toasting or baking improves palatability (making the food more pleasant to the dog) and digestibility.

Fats

Dietary fats are concentrated sources of energy. They are sources of essential fatty acids and fat-soluble vitamins. The addition of fat in the diet enhances palatability of the food and adds a desired texture to foods. One gram of fat provides 2.25 times more calories than one gram of carbohydrate and almost twice as many calories as one gram of protein. Too much dietary fat may cause obesity.

Protein

Protein is the most expensive major ingredient in dog food. It helps with many different functions in the body including the growth and production of muscles, bone and cartilage, skin, hormones and enzymes. It also helps to repair tissue, transport oxygen in the blood and supply energy. Amino acids are the building blocks that make up protein. Essential amino acids are those that cannot be formed fast enough or in high enough amounts to meet the dog's requirements for growth and maintenance and therefore, must be provided in their

diet. Nonessential amino acids are produced in adequate amounts in the body naturally and generally don't need to be supplemented through diet.

Protein originates from both animal and plant sources. Protein quality or biological value (ability of the protein to be used by the body and its amount of usable amino acids) varies depending on its source. Egg has the highest biological value (100) and sets the standards for which other proteins are judged. Meat, bone meal and wheat have a biological value of around 50 and corn is 45. Hair and feathers are very high in protein but very low for biological value.

Did you Know?

Dogs require 10 essential amino acids. These must be found in the dog's diet as the body can't form them fast enough or enough of them for a dog's growth and maintenance.

- Arginine
- Histidine
- Isoleucine
- Leucine
- Lysine
- Methionine
- Threonine
- Phenylalanine
- Tryptophan
- Valine

Protein requirements vary from breed to breed. Large breed dogs may have special protein needs. Protein requirements also vary depending on the dog's growth and reproductive stage as well as on their activity level, age and health. If a healthy dog eats too much protein, some of it will be excreted in the urine and the rest is used as calories or is converted to fat. Theoretically, it shouldn't cause any harm. But, if a dog has kidney problems, the dog may need to be fed a protein-restricted diet. This means finding a dog food with a protein that has a high biological value.

Research It!

Choose one of the essential amino acids. What does it do specifically for the canine body?

Vitamins

Vitamins are organic compounds essential for growth, tissue maintenance and metabolism. They must be provided in the diet because they cannot be produced by the animal. Vitamins are required in small quantities compared to other groups of nutrients. However, deficiencies can cause serious health problems. The fat-soluble vitamins are A, D, and K. Water-soluble vitamins are the B complex vitamins (Thiamin (B1), Riboflavin (B2), Niacin, Pyridoxine (B6), Biotin, Choline, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12) and Vitamin C.

Minerals

Minerals aid in bodily functions such as normal muscle and nerve function, hormone production, transportation of oxygen in the blood, bone and cartilage formation, maintaining fluid balance and enzymatic reactions. Minerals are usually divided into two categories:

1. Macro-minerals

required in larger amounts in the diet

found in greater amounts in the body than micro-minerals

2. Micro-minerals

required in smaller amounts in the diet

found in smaller amounts in the body

Must-Have Minerals

Macro-minerals

Calcium (Ca)

Phosphorus (P)

Sodium (Na)

Potassium (K)

Magnesium (Mg)

Chloride (Cl)

Micro-minerals

Iron (Fe)

Zinc (Zn)

Copper (Cu)

Manganese (Mn)

Selenium (Se)

Iodine (I)

Types of Dog Foods

There are five types of dog foods. Some of these are commercially made while some may choose to make their dog food at home.

1. Dry
2. Semi-moist
3. Canned
4. Raw
5. Home-cooked

Dry dog foods typically contain 10% to 12% moisture.

Some advantages of dry foods include:

- they are less expensive (usually the larger the bag, the lower the price per pound)
- the hard texture helps clean the tartar from their teeth
- some dogs can be fed free choice

Some disadvantages of dry foods include:

- lower palatability for many dogs
- the use of fresh animal tissues is limited due to the requirement for stability in drying
- they are generally higher in fibre and lower in digestibility when compared to canned foods

Semi-moist dog foods contain 25% to 35% moisture.

Some advantages of feeding semi-moist foods include:

- they do not require refrigeration
- some dogs can be fed free choice
- they are highly palatable due to the sugar content and soft texture
- fresh animal tissues can be used in these foods

Some disadvantages of semi-moist foods include:

- they often contain high amounts of sugar, which, in addition to causing tooth decay and making your dog fat, they can stress the pancreas and adrenal glands, increasing the potential for diabetes
- they cost more than dry foods
- they do not clean tartar from teeth
- they may contain unnecessary or even harmful food dyes and other nonessential ingredients

Canned dog foods contain about 70% to 75% moisture. Generally, canned foods have the highest concentrations of fat and protein.

One advantage of canned foods is that a variety of wet and dry ingredients can be used.

Disadvantages of canned foods include:

- they are usually the most expensive dog food on a per-feeding basis
- they do not clean tartar from teeth

A **raw dog food** diet consists of raw meat, preferably with some bones (never cooked bones, only raw) and organs mixed in, as bones are a natural source of phosphorus and calcium.

This type of diet works well for some dogs, since dogs have short intestinal tracts and strong stomach acids, both of which make it easier for them to consume and digest raw food. Before transitioning your dog to a raw diet, talk to your veterinarian about the benefits and risks.

Some dog owners value the ability to be in complete control of their dog's diet. A home-cooked dog food diet allows you to know for certain exactly what is in everything your dog eats and to be absolutely sure that its nutritional needs are being met. Feeding your dog a home-cooked diet is time consuming and expensive, but many owners think the extra effort is worth the peace of mind they gain. If you decide to feed your dog a home-cooked diet, make sure you do your research about canine nutrition so you can be sure your dog is not missing out on any vital nutrients.

Share It!

Tell the group what type of dog food you feed your dog and why you chose that type.

Reach Out!

Invite a veterinarian, canine nutritionist or dog food salesperson to your meeting to discuss the nutritional value of various types of dog foods.

Reading Dog Food Labels

Providing your dog a high-quality diet is part of being a responsible dog owner. Learn to read dog food labels to determine what kind of food to feed, the quality of food you are feeding and to ensure you are getting the desired product.

Daily Recommended Feeding Guidelines

Weight (kg)	Weight (lb)	Cups / day*
2 - 5	4.5 - 11	1/2 - 1
5 - 15	11 - 33	1 - 1 1/2
15 - 25	33 - 55	1 1/2 - 2
25 - 35	55 - 77	2 - 2 3/4
35 - 50	77 - 110	2 3/4 - 3 1/2

*Amounts are recommended for average dogs with regular activity. Feeding requirements will vary depending on age, activity and environment and should be adjusted accordingly.

Guaranteed Analysis

Crude Protein	24% Min
Crude Fat	14% Min
Crude Fibre	3.5% Max
Moisture	10% Max
Omega 6	2.1% Min
Omega 3	0.40%

**BIG BAG,
Best in Value!**

Ingredients

Chicken meal, ground oats, brown rice, potato, chicken fat (stabilized with mixed tocopherols, a natural source of vitamin E), millet, rye, fresh chicken, chicken cartilage (natural source of glucosamine), natural flavour, whole dried egg, flaxseed, Canadian salmon meal, Canadian salmon oil, tomato pomace, calcium carbonate, potassium chloride, dicalcium phosphate, sodium chloride, lecithin, kelp, chicory root extract, cranberry, alfalfa, spinach, sweet potato, broccoli, blueberries, apples, bananas, pears, vitamin (vitamin A, vitamin D3, vitamin E, niacin, vitamin C, inositol), d-calcium pantothenate, thiamine mononitrate, riboflavin, beta carotene, pyridoxine hydrochloride, folic acid, vitamin K, biotin, vitamin B12 supplement), minerals (zinc proteinate, ferrous sulfate, iron proteinate, zinc oxide, copper proteinate, copper sulfate, manganese proteinate, manganous oxide, calcium iodate, sodium selenite), probiotics (lactobacillus acidophilus, lactobacillus casei, enterococcus faecium, bifidobacterium thermophilum), DL methionine, yucca schidigera extract, rosemary, turmeric, paprika, garlic, cinnamon, chamomile, capsicum

3776 kcal/kg & 415 kcal/cup

Image Credit: Canadian Naturals <https://www.canadiannaturals.com>

Pet food sold in Canada is currently subject to the following Canadian and International regulations:

- The Government of Canada’s enhanced animal health safeguards, implemented in July 2007, make it illegal for specified risk materials (SRMs) to be fed to any animal, including dogs and cats.
- The labelling and advertising of pet food is regulated by the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and the Competition Act, administered by Industry Canada.
- The Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act mandates that the following items be included on pet food labels.
 - o Common or generic name: e.g. “Dog Food” or “Cat Food”
 - o Net weight: amount of product within the package, measured in metric units
 - o The manufacturer’s or importer’s contact information
- The Guidelines, an accepted standard in the pet food industry, recommend pet food labels should contain at least the following information in addition to the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act items.
 - o List of ingredients: listed in descending order by percentage of weight
 - o Feeding instructions
 - o Guaranteed analysis: information on the minimum and maximum nutritional quantities. For example, the analysis will include the maximum or minimum percentage of protein, fat, fiber and moisture.
 - o Nutritional adequacy or intended life stage for which the food is suitable
- Ingredients must be listed and identified by their common name. When an ingredient or combination of ingredients makes up 90% or more of the total weight of all ingredients, these ingredients may also form a part of the product name. For example, if the product contains 90% or more beef, it may be called “My Brand Beef Dog Food”.

Look It Up!

What does Nutritional Adequacy mean? Find out and report back to the group.

Experience It!

Visit a pet food manufacturing company to learn how dog food is made and packaged. Or, visit a pet food supply store and check out what types of food are for sale, what the cost difference is and what is printed on the label for each type.

Judge It!

Look at four different brands of dog foods. Judge, looking at both the dog kibble and the label, and place the brands in a ranking of one through four. Use the sample Judging Sheet found at the end of this section.

How Much to Feed

How much do you feed a dog? You are in control of what and how much your dog eats. You can feed your dog:

1. Free choice (also referred to as ad libitum) – food is freely available
2. Limit the amount of time your dog is given to eat
3. Limit the amount of food your dog gets

If you choose to limit the amount of time given to eat, feed what your dog can eat in 15 to 20 minutes either once or preferably twice daily. Usually restricting the amount of food your dog eats gets the best results. This allows you to measure each feeding and then adjust accordingly to maintain your dog's ideal weight. You might need to adjust the amount you feed from the amounts suggested on dog food labels as the recommendations are sometimes too high.

Feed enough food so your dog maintains an ideal weight. The ribs should be easily felt without being able to stick your fingers between them. There should be a definite "waistline." It is healthier for your dog to be a little lean than it is for it to be too fat.

Share It!

Have members bring the package their dog's food comes in. Or, have member's look their dog's food up on the Internet. Have members tell the group how much dog food their dog should be receiving each day and how often they feed their dog.

How Often to Feed



Image Credit: <https://pixabay.com>

Puppies need to eat more often than adult dogs. Feeding puppies three times a day is recommended. Caution should be taken in feeding large breed puppies since rapid growth has been a proven contributor to bone and joint disorders such as hip dysplasia. These puppies need to be kept lean but still fed a high-quality diet. As your puppy gets older, you can work at feeding your puppy only twice a day, rather than three times. When your dog reaches adult age (this depends on the breed of dog you have), your dog can be switched onto an adult diet and can be fed either once or twice a day. Many behaviourists and nutritionists recommend feeding a dog twice a day for the rest of its life.

Foods to Avoid

There are several foods you need to make sure your dog doesn't eat as they are harmful, and potentially fatal to dogs. One such food is chocolate. It contains an ingredient called theobromine that interferes with how a dog's heart functions. The severity of eating chocolate for a dog depends on the size and age of the dog as well as the type and amount of chocolate eaten. Eating chocolate can be fatal to a dog. Dark chocolate is much worse than milk chocolate. If you catch your dog shortly after it has eaten the chocolate, induce vomiting (as described in the Canine Health section). Otherwise, contact your veterinarian for instructions.

Dogs should not be fed:

- Chocolate
- Raw eggs
- Raw onions
- Uncooked starches
- Grapes
- Raisins
- Sugar-free products

Raw egg whites bind up biotin, causing the dog to become deficient in that vitamin. Raw onions have been linked to liver damage in dogs. Uncooked starch that can be found in potatoes, oatmeal and other cereals can cause diarrhea. Grapes and raisins contain a toxin that can damage a dog's kidneys, leading to renal failure and death. Eating even as few as seven may result in toxicity.

Sugar-free products, such as sugar-free gum containing Xylitol, may cause severe hypoglycemia and possible liver failure in dogs, resulting in death.

Share It!

Have members share any experiences they may have had with a pet eating something they shouldn't and what they (or their parents) did about the situation.

Avocados contain a toxin called persin, which, contrary to belief, is generally not poisonous to dogs. However, the risk when eating avocados is choking, which can happen if the dog swallows the whole, large, round avocado seed. It can get stuck in a dog's esophagus, stomach or intestinal tract.

Bones are another item that can cause serious problems in dogs. Bones can be unsafe regardless of their size or whether they are raw or cooked. Bones fed to dogs may:

- cause broken teeth
 - cause mouth or tongue injuries
 - get stuck in a dog's esophagus or windpipe
 - get stuck in the stomach
 - get stuck in intestines and cause a blockage
 - bone fragments may cause constipation
 - cause severe bleeding from the rectum
 - cause peritonitis, a hard-to-treat bacterial infection of the abdomen
- Caution should be taken if giving your dog a bone to chew on.

Share It!

Are there any other foods that aren't listed here that are harmful (and potentially fatal) to dogs?

Treats

Dogs love treats! Treats provide variety in a dog's diet as well as a reward for good behaviour. They are used as training aids to reinforce desired behaviours. Certain treats are also good for dental health. Treats should be considered dietary supplements and not as a replacement for a nutritionally balanced diet.



*Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>
Teach your dog to take its treat gently.*

Discuss It!

What type of treats does each member feed to their dog?
Why have they chosen this treat for their dog?

Exercise

Physical exercise is as important for your dog as it is for you and for the same reasons. Exercise improves your dog's muscle tone, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness and digestion. It strengthens your dog's immune system. Exercise also increases the production of endorphins which are chemicals produced in the body that reduce stress, enhance moods and help your dog to relax. Exercise helps keep your dog from getting bored. A bored dog can get into trouble.

Exercise has the same benefits for you so use exercise to improve your health and the health of your dog. Exercising together also helps you to build a relationship with your pet.



Image Credit: Better Living with Fido <https://betterlivingwithfido.com>

Daily exercise and play are important for both you and your dog

According to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, there are no guidelines for how much exercise is enough or too much for a dog. The amount of exercise a dog needs really depends on the breed, age and state of health of the pet. However, most experts agree that exercise needs to be regular, vigorous, and plentiful. Exercise should include not only walks, but also playing games, fetching, and exercise off a leash (in a safe, appropriate place). Exercise should be provided two to three times daily for a total of at least one hour.

While it is certainly possible to exercise a dog too much, it is usually not very likely. Most dogs simply stop exercising on their own when they get tired. Exceptions to this rule occur if they are forced to exercise under extraordinary circumstances, such as if under duress (e.g. forced by an abusive owner) or if stressed (e.g. if they get lost and are wandering the streets looking for their way back home).

Dogs can over-exercise if encouraged to do so by their owners. Like their owners, dogs can suffer from “weekend warrior syndrome”. This occurs when normally sedate pets suddenly exercise excessively over a weekend and then have to endure sore muscles the following day.

Over-exercising is rare. If it does occur, it may lead to muscular soreness and eventually to a gradual loss of weight. Pets may become reluctant to go on walks and may have worn tender foot pads. If walks are too long, a dog may simply sit down and refuse to continue.

Just as in humans, the condition of your dog determines the level at which it can exercise. As your dog builds up stamina, it becomes capable of exercising for a longer period of time. Your dog needs to start exercising slowly for shorter periods of time until it gets into shape. Then, increase the time and rigour of its exercise program.

Keep your dog on a leash when taking it out for a walk around town.

You must also pay attention to the weather and not over-exercise your dog if it is too hot or cold. Brachycephalic breeds (short-nosed) such as the Bulldog, can't handle heat and may have difficulty breathing if forced to run. The short-coated breeds, like a smooth-coated Dachshund, may not tolerate the cold. Just like people, dogs can suffer from heatstroke, frostbite and hypothermia.



Image Credit: Peppy Paws Dog Walking

Know how your dog acts under normal conditions. Don't force your dog to continue exercising if it begins to limp, slows down, lags behind, pants excessively or quits on its own.

Make sure that plenty of fresh water is available at all times. Never feed your dog before or immediately after an exercise session. Feeding too close to strenuous exercising can lead to bloat, a life-threatening condition.

Look It Up!

Besides the Bulldog, what other brachycephalic breeds of dogs may have difficulty breathing if forced to run?

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Create a dog feeding journal and keep track of how much dog food is fed and how many dog treats your dog is given each day for a week. Compare your journal to the recommendations on the labels of your dog food and dog treats for the size of dog you have and see if you are close to the recommendations.

NOTE: Activity #1 – Dog Food Diary is similar to this At Home Activity but is much more in-depth. Depending on the knowledge level of your members, chose one of these activities for your members to complete.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Raw dog food diets are controversial. While some think this is the way dogs were meant to eat before dogs became pets, others think dry dog food is the correct diet for dogs. Find five reasons why someone might feel a raw dog food diet is best as well as five reason why someone might feel a dry dog food diet is the best for their dog. If possible, try to find some nutritional reasons why one might be better than the other, taking care to find information from credible sources.

DIGGING DEEPER II

For senior members

Some brands of dog food have created dog food diets for specific breeds. Research to find out if there is much difference in these foods and if so, what those differences are.

ACTIVITY #1

DOG FOOD DIARY

DO	<p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• chart or diary• pencil/pen• dog food <p>For members with cell phones or other hand-held devices, there are various applications available to help monitor a dog's diet (search for dog nutrition calendar).</p> <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask members to monitor and measure their dog's eating habits between meetings, including any number of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">How much food the dog receivesTheir dog's behaviour when they're being fedWhat time the dog is fedHow long it takes the dog to eatTreats givenWater intake• As a group, you may decide on other things to monitor such as exercise levels
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to use their observation and recording skills to monitor and understand their dog's nutrition.</p> <p>To allow members to identify patterns and possibly better understand some of their dog's behavioural traits.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does your dog have a healthy diet?• Should you make any adjustments to help improve your dog's health?• Does food affect your dog's behaviour?

ACTIVITY #2

HOMEMADE DOG TREATS

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">DO</p>	<p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipes for various dog treats (as part of the activity, have members find recipes at a previous meeting, have them judge the best recipe and then have the ingredients ready for this meeting (at the leader’s discretion based on the cost and availability of the ingredients in the chosen recipe)) • Ingredients to make the recipe • Baking equipment • Access to an oven (depending on the recipe) <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have members follow the instructions in the recipe to make dog treats • If members are pleased with the final product that they’ve made, ask members if this is a product they think they could sell. Have them consider what it would cost to make the dog treats and what price they would have to sell the treats for. Remind them to consider packaging, labelling and nutritional value as part of their cost. • Have members test the treats on their dogs to see if their dog likes the treat.
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">REFLECT</p>	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to make dog treats and to evaluate how profitable it would be if they were to make a business out of making and selling dog treats.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: white;">APPLY</p>	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was it easy or hard to make the dog treats? • What was the cost to make the dog treats? • What type of packaging and labelling would you use to package the dog treats? • How would you figure out the nutritional value of the dog treats? • Did your dog like the treat? • Did your dog’s stool change after eating the treat?

BASIC TRAINING & OBEDIENCE



SECTION 5A – GETTING STARTED WITH TRAINING

Setting Objectives

The relationship we share with our dogs is a unique and often extremely rewarding one. This is one of the biggest reasons we have dogs in our lives. It is also an important part of a training program. Training requires that you build and maintain a strong relationship with your dog based on trust and cooperation.

Good communication skills form the basis of any solid relationship. It is important to keep this in mind when you are dealing with your dog. You must help your dog understand not only what is expected, but also what behaviors you would like them to repeat and what behaviors you would rather see go by the wayside. Keeping this in mind, training and basic manners are crucial to building the bond between you and your dog. The more the two of you can communicate, the more your relationship will flourish.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand the importance of having a positive relationship with your dog
- To be able to identify the principles of operant conditioning
- To understand the role that leadership plays in training your dog
- To identify various methods of rewarding a dog
- To understand the importance of reinforcing good behaviours
- To learn tips for being a good trainer

Roll Calls

- Name one reason it's a good idea to train your dog to behave.
- Name one way you can reward your dog for good behaviour.
- Name something a good dog trainer does when working with a dog.

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 10 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<p><u>Topic Information</u></p> <p>Beginning Training Techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive Reinforcement • Positive Punishment • Negative Punishment • Negative Reinforcement <p>The Role of Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training a Bridge • The Lure • Targeting • Getting Your Dog to Pay Attention <p>Recall Enrichment Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puppy in the Middle • Fast Food • Hide-and-seek <p>Activities</p> <p>The Name Game (Attention Exercise)</p> <p>The Attention Game (Attention Exercise)</p> <p>Set Up Game - Finding the Heel Position - Prepping for Obedience</p>	90 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Recall Enrichment Activity	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Getting Started with Training

How you train your dog is extremely important. It determines the kind of relationship you have with your dog. Using positive training methods when training your puppy or dog establishes a closer bond between the two of you and produces an overall happier pet. Positive training uses primarily positive reinforcement to reward good and desirable behaviour. Remember that punishment for a dog might be something as simple as not getting your attention. This is called operant conditioning. Operant conditioning is a method of learning that occurs through rewards and punishments for behaviour. Through operant conditioning, a dog makes an association between a particular behaviour and a consequence.

Experience It!

Invite a dog trainer to your meeting to discuss positive reinforcement when training dogs.



Image Credit: Companion Animal Psychology <https://www.companionanimalpsychology.com>

Your dog is naturally motivated to repeat behaviours that are rewarded.

The following principles of operant conditioning are based on the combined terms of positive or negative and reinforcement or punishment.

Positive Reinforcement

The dog's behaviour makes something good or desirable happen. Positive trainers use positive reinforcement a lot. An example of positive reinforcement is using praise and reward for a desired behaviour such as learning to sit or stay on command.

Positive Punishment

This is when a dog's behaviour makes something bad or undesirable happen. Positive trainers do not use positive punishment very often, if at all. For example, punishing a puppy for having an accident in the house does not fix the behaviour but may make your puppy afraid of you. Fear can lead to aggression. You can't build a positive bond with your dog if it is afraid of you. If a dog is not corrected during or immediately after the behaviour occurs (within one or two seconds), the correction is not effective. The dog won't associate the correction with the behaviour. You will be punishing your dog for the wrong behaviour. Positive punishment is correcting the behaviour immediately when it happens.

Negative Punishment

The dog's behaviour makes something good or desirable go away. Positive trainers do use negative punishment as a nonviolent means of providing a negative consequence for an unwanted behaviour. For example, if you are hand feeding your dog and it's too rough, take your hand away. When your dog sits, waits for your hand to return and is gentle, give your dog the treat. In this case, taking the taking away of your hand and the treat is the negative punishment. The dog's bad behaviour made the food go away.

Negative Reinforcement

This is when the dog's behaviour makes something bad or undesirable go away. Positive trainers may use a limited amount of gentle negative reinforcement in the form of mild physical pressure. Generally, trainers consider forceful applications of negative reinforcement to be unacceptable. An example is when a dog stops pulling on the leash that is making them choke. The dog stops pulling and the choking stops.

The goal with positive training is to help your dog to do the right thing and then reward your dog for doing it rather than punishing your dog for doing a wrong thing. If your dog makes a mistake, the behaviour is ignored or excused with you saying "oops, try again" to encourage your dog to do something else. Your dog tries again and learns to keep trying without fear of punishment until they get it right. Your dog will learn to be confident and willing to think and reason on their own.

What Type of Training Is This?

The scenarios below describe three ways of training a dog not to jump on people. Each one is based on a different training method. Can you tell which one is positive, which one is coercive (using force) and which one is permissive?

The dog is on a leash and goes to jump on an approaching stranger:

Scenario 1: The handler responds by jerking hard on the leash. Jumping is punished and the dog learns that bad things happen if it tries to jump on people. It also may learn that approaching people makes bad things happen.

Scenario 2: The handler allows the dog to jump up and the stranger pets it. Jumping up is rewarded and the dog learns that jumping up makes good things happen.

Scenario 3: The handler restrains the dog so that it can't reach the stranger. The handler asks the stranger to stop and wait for the dog to sit before petting it. Jumping up is managed and the dog learns that jumping up gets nothing but sitting makes good things happen.

Adapted from "Positive mistakes: The top five errors committed when training with positive techniques." The Whole Dog Journal, May 2007

Answers found at the end of this section

The Role of Leadership

Traditional dog training literature often instructs owners that it is necessary to be dominant (the alpha dog, the boss) in order to be a successful dog owner. But, positive reinforcement training doesn't require us to be domineering and forceful when training our dogs.

It is important, however, for you to take a leadership role in your relationship with your dog. It isn't just enough to love your dog and let it do whatever makes it happy. Dogs raised without leadership are often unsuitable family pets. As some dogs mature, they are labeled uncontrollable and are surrendered to shelters. Some stay in their homes and make everyone, including themselves, miserable. Some become dangerous. Leadership doesn't require force or a struggle to be effective. Positive reinforcement needs to be used for training.

As a dog owner you control everything that is important in your dog's life. Your job as a leader is to know what is important to your dog and to use these things to reward your dog for attentiveness to you and for good behaviour.

You also use good management so your dog becomes attentive and successful, giving you many opportunities to reinforce good behaviour. Your dog quickly learns that being attentive to you gets it access to everything it considers important. Anything your dog likes can be used as a reward such as food, toys, walks, car rides, back rubs, swimming and much more. By using the things you would do for your dog anyway, you establish yourself as a true leader – a leader that has the best interest of your dog at heart.

Your dog responds better when you give it a special reward. Rewards are what reinforce the behaviours you want to see again. Some suggestions for rewarding your dog include:

- **Food** – small pieces of tasty food that can be easily swallowed work best. Some good food rewards are hot dogs, liver, carrots or cheese, all cut into small bite-size pieces. Other items can include goldfish crackers, cereal, mini marshmallows. All meat should be properly cooked, stored and safe for human consumption. Make a variety of food rewards. Refrigerate perishable items until ready for use. Place non-perishable food items in a treat bag so they are ready when you need them. When deciding on what treats to use, consider how enticing they are to your puppy and if they can easily and quickly be swallowed.

- **Toys** – balls, frisbees and squeaky toys are some things that might get your puppy excited. Experiment with different toys to see which one your dog prefers. Keep some of these toys hidden and bring them out only for training or only for play while training or only after training as a special reward.

Discuss It!

When training, what types of treats do you use for your dog? Are there any treats that your dog doesn't like? What are they?

Discuss It!

When your dog exhibits good behaviour and you want to reward your dog, does your dog see toys as a reward or would they rather have a food treat? Do you use toys as a reward for your dog?

Check It Out!

Is there a particular toy that is best for using as a reward? Research to find out what the most popular toy is that is used as a reward when training a dog.

- **Praise and petting** – let your dog know that it is doing well by talking to it in gentle approving tones of voice. Rubs, pats, massages and special touching with your hands are all ways to reward your dog.



Image Credit: The Dogington Post <https://www.dogingtonpost.com>

- **Clickers** – these are hand-held devices that make a clicking sound when you press the clicker. After training you dog to associate the sound with a reward, you ‘click’ just as the dog does the desired behaviour to tell your dog ‘yes, that’s right.’ Clickers are a very positive training tool often used by trainers of large zoo animals like gorillas and polar bears and with dolphins and birds.

Look It Up!

There are many articles and books written about clicker training. Do a search to find at least two online articles and share at least one piece of training advice from the articles with the group. Be sure the article come from credible sources. Search for an online video about clicker training and share with the group.

- **Smiles** – these are always with you and are easily recognized as very positive.

Trainers that are good at reinforcing are:

1. Quick – they have good timing
2. Generous – they use lots of reinforcement
3. Unpredictable – they vary when, how much and how they reinforce
4. Variable – they use many different reinforcements

Some training tips include:

- Concentrate on and reinforce the things that your dog does right
- Remember that the reinforcement you use must be something your dog likes or wants
- Keep your training sessions short and interesting
- Use a bridge (a word or sound that means “you’re right”) at the very moment your dog does what you want. The word “Yes!” and clickers are examples of good bridges.
- Use a lure. It allows you to show your dog what to do without using your hands or leash to push or pull it into position. Phase out the lure as soon as possible.
- Train your dog to target to your hand.

Training a Bridge

A bridge is a word or sound that tells your “That’s right!”

1. Decide on the word or sound you will use to tell your dog that it is right and a reward is coming.
2. Pick a quiet time and place when your dog is doing nothing wrong and say the word or make the sound. Immediately smile and give your dog a treat. Repeat this ten to twenty times until your dog is looking expectantly at you every time it hears the bridge.
3. An excellent time to teach this is when you are hand feeding your dog it’s meal.
4. Use your bridge at the second your dog does something right.

Make A List!

List other phrases that could be used as a bridge when training your dog. Try to have the club come up with at least as many phrases as there are members in the club, Bonus points if the club can come up with even more!

The Lure

A lure is a treat in your hand that your dog follows.

1. Put a treat in your hand so your dog can see it. Use your hand to lure your dog into the position you want. When your dog is in position, immediately use your bridge and then give it a treat and smile.
2. When your dog is reliably performing the behaviour you want, continue to use the lure but no longer give it to your dog. Use your bridge, but have the reward come from somewhere else – a treat from your other hand, from your pocket, from another family member, from the counter, from the refrigerator, etc. Now is also a good time to vary the types and the amount of reward you are using. Sometimes food, sometimes a toy, sometimes access to the outside or to the car. Sometimes it can be a little reward and sometimes a big one. Remember, good trainers are unpredictable, variable and generous too.
3. Now, use your lure hand with no food in it to lure your dog into position. This becomes your signal to get the behaviour. If your dog performs the behaviour, use your bridge and give it a large, special reward. If your dog doesn't respond, drop your hand to your side and quietly give it a few seconds. If it still doesn't respond, ignore it for a little bit and then try again.

Targeting

Targeting is teaching your dog to touch or follow your hand. If your dog is small, you can use a wand or a stick as the focus of the targeting.

1. Start in a quiet place when your dog wants to do something with you. Put a handful of treats in your right hand and stand or sit in front of your dog.
2. Put your left hand, with the palm open, close to your dog's nose. It will probably reach out and sniff it. When your dog touches your hand, give your bridge and a treat and a smile.
3. Repeat step two.
4. After a couple of repetitions most dogs ignore the left hand and stare at the hand with the food. When this happens, you can speed things up by using a lure. While holding a treat in your right hand, put it behind your left hand. Keep your left hand close to your dog's nose. When it accidentally touches your left hand while trying to get to the treat, immediately give your bridge and then a treat and a smile.

5. When your dog is consistently touching your left hand, gradually withdraw your right hand. Keep your left hand close to its nose.
6. When your dog is consistently touching your left hand without a lure, gradually move your left hand further away so that eventually it is moving forward to touch your left hand.
7. When your dog is reliably moving to touch your hand, you can begin to move your hand and use your bridge to reward your dog for following it.
8. Remember to keep your sessions short and to stop while your dog is still interested. Targeting can often be taught in a couple of short sessions. Try it while you are hand feeding a meal.
9. “Spot” training is also a form of targeting. One way to teach your dog to touch a spot is to use a plastic margarine lid with a treat on it. You could use this training aid at the end of an agility obstacle.

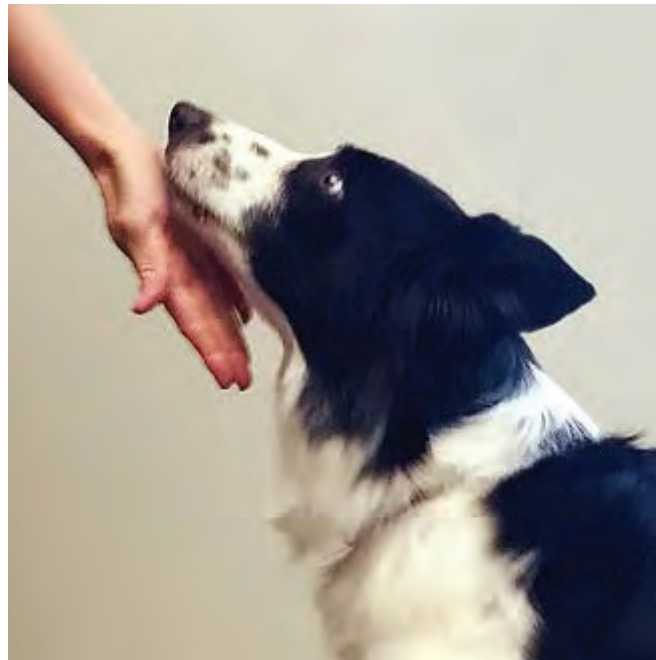
Getting Your Dog to Pay Attention

Attention is the key that makes training possible. Your dog is paying attention and learning things all the time. The key is to get your dog to pay attention and learn from you.

Instructions for getting your dog to pay attention to you:

1. Observe your dog carefully this week. Whenever you notice your dog giving you quiet attention, reinforce it calmly with your attention, a touch, praise, part of its meal or whatever else you can think of that it would like. Immediately ignore any pushy or rude attention.

2. When you are in an area where your dog usually finds you quite interesting, speak your dog’s name one time only, clearly but softly. When your dog looks at you, instantly praise your dog while it continues to look. Reward with tiny pieces of treat, part of its meal, favourite toys or other things your dog finds rewarding. Repeat this at least five or six times a day.



*Image Credit: American Kennel Club www.akc.org
Teach your dog to target and then follow your hand by using food.*

3. If your dog jumps up on you, immediately lose interest. Look at the ceiling and withhold any reward. The instant his feet are back on the ground continue your verbal praise whatever reward you were using.
4. In the beginning, you can use a treat as a lure to help your dog look at you. Hold the treat up near your eyes to encourage it to look up.
5. As soon as your dog begins to get the idea, don't have food or other rewards visible when you speak to it. Produce the reward as soon as it comes and looks at you. Vary your rewards – sometimes food, sometimes toys, sometimes games, sometimes rubs and hugs. Vary your rewards as much as you can.
6. If your dog doesn't look at you when it hears its name, try hiding from your dog or bring out it's favourite toy and play with it by yourself. Ignore your dog if it tries to join in. Produce something tasty and eat it yourself (or at least pretend to!). Use your imagination. Make it well worth it for your dog to look at you.
7. Begin training in the kitchen or some other area where your dog finds you fascinating. Gradually move to other locations and introduce more distractions. In more distracting situations, use higher value reinforcements.
8. You should begin to see a marked increase in your dog's attentive behaviour, especially when it hears its name. If you are not seeing improvement, make sure that you are not using its name to scold him. Check to be sure that you are not nagging your dog and saying its name over and over.

Recall Enrichment Games

Puppy In the Middle

This game requires two or more people and a puppy or dog. Each person takes turns calling the puppy to them using its name and enticing tones. When the puppy arrives, it is reinforced generously and then the next person calls. The game starts with the people close together and gradually everyone backs up to increase the distance. It is important to stop the game while the puppy is still highly interested.

Fast Food

This is a variation of puppy in the middle. It is a great game for the whole family. Each person takes part of the dog's dinner and goes to different rooms in the house. Each person takes turns calling as above and the puppy is rewarded with a small amount of its dinner when it comes to that person.

Try It Out!

Try out Activities One and Two at the end of this section. Both activities are Attention Exercises for you and your dog.

Hide-and-seek

This game requires you and your puppy or dog. You are always “it.” Throw a treat for your dog. Then, send it for the treat and run and hide. Call your dog’s name clearly as you disappear. For more time, throw multiple treats. When you are found, reward your dog generously.

Dog Tip!

Avoid chasing games!
Always have your dog chase you, never the other way around.

No dog has perfect recall!

No matter how much you train, no matter how tasty your treats, there’s a chance that your dog will not come. Dogs are not perfect, and their acute hearing and sense of smell makes distractions very hard to ignore. Some dogs can never be trusted off-leash.

It’s up to you to keep your dog safe. It’s up to you to know when it’s okay to let it off the leash, and when you need to keep it close. One mistake, and your dog is gone forever. When in doubt, leash your dog.

Answers to ‘What Type of Training is this?’

Scenario 1 is coercive

Scenario 2 is permissive

Scenario 3 is positive

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Try one of the Recall Enrichment Activities listed in this meeting at home. Be prepared to report at the next meeting if the activity worked well, if your dog caught on to what you (or your group) were asking of the dog and if there is anything you recommend someone else do differently if they were to do this activity.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

There are many Recall Enrichment Activities for dogs. Find additional recall activities that don't appear in this project manual that could be used to strengthen teaching dogs to come when called. Have the activity ready to demonstrate at the next meeting.

ACTIVITY #1

THE NAME GAME (ATTENTION EXERCISE)

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog(s) on a leash• Clicker (or other bridge)• Something to reward the dog (treats, petting, etc.) (positive reinforcement) <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have each member work with their dog or, work in partners with one dog, taking turns working one-on-one with the dog.• Give the following instructions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Say the dog's name or nickname once in a clear tone- Use the clicker or other marker (bridge) to mark the exact second the dog looks or turns to look- Follow with positive reinforcement• Work in an area where there are minimal distractions• Gradually add distractions and locations• If the dog does not respond, the 4-H member gets the reward (or pretend to enjoy the reward!). Try again with less distractions and better reinforcements• Encourage members to continue practicing this activity at home. Play often and reward generously until the dog immediately responds when hearing its name
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to teach their dog to look at them when the dog hears its name.</p> <p>To improve timing and condition a bridge.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important for your dog to learn its name?• Was this activity easy or hard? Did your dog know its name before doing this exercise?• Did it make it harder to do this activity with other dogs around? What could you do to make it easier for your dog?

ACTIVITY #2

THE ATTENTION GAME (ATTENTION EXERCISE)

DO

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Dog(s) on a leash
- Clicker (or other bridge)
- Something to reward the dog (treats, petting, etc.) (positive reinforcement)

Instructions:

- Have each member work with their dog or, work in partners with one dog, taking turns working one-on-one with the dog.
- Give the following instructions:
 - Step on the leash, hold it still or clip it on and quietly observe your dog
 - When your dog looks at you, use a clicker (bridge) to mark the look and follow with positive reinforcement
 - As long as your dog keeps looking, keep reinforcing it with tiny treats, verbal strokes, etc.
 - If your dog looks away, immediately stop reinforcing
 - When your dog looks back, click (bridge) and reinforce as above
 - If your dog does not look, do nothing. Just keep watching
 - When your dog looks at you often and with intensity, move to Part Two.

Part Two

- Reward the look with anything and everything
- When your dog wants something, wait patiently until you get the look, mark it and reward with what your dog wants, if possible, or with treats and praise.

REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to work with their dog to build their dog's attention towards them whenever distractions are present.</p> <p>To improve timing and condition a bridge (a word or sound that links the dog's action to the reward).</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Were you able to keep your dog's attention? Were you able to move onto Part Two of this activity?• Did it make it harder to do this activity with other dogs around? What could you do to make it easier for your dog?• Were there any other distractions for your dog? What did you do to cope with the distractions?

ACTIVITY #3

SET UP GAME – FINDING THE HEEL POSITION – PREPPING FOR OBEDIENCE

DO

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Dog(s) on a leash
- Clicker (or other bridge)
- Something to reward the dog (treats, petting, etc.) (positive reinforcement)

Instructions:

To be in proper heel position, the area between your dog's ear and shoulder should be even with your left leg. Your dog should be facing the same direction that you are.

- Have each member work with their dog or, work in partners with one dog, taking turns working one-on-one with the dog.
- Give the following instructions to help members to be able to get their dog into a heel position as quickly as possible:

- Begin by encouraging your dog to follow while you are backing up. This gets your dog looking at you for clues and watching you while moving
- At first, use a lure
- Quickly change to continual reinforcement
- Use targeting
- Using a lure or targeting, draw the dog around into the heel position as you move forward
- Reinforce your dog while standing or ask for Sit and reinforce while sitting (if your dog understands the command sit – if not, it will be covered in the next section)
- When your dog can do this easily, reinforce your dog with your feet planted and the dog will do all of the moving
- When your dog is able to do this well, add a verbal signal

REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to condition a strong positive association with heel position for their dog, to build strong handling skills and to teach polite walking and attention, heeling on and off leash.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important for your dog to learn how to heel properly?• Was this activity easy or hard? Why?• Did it make it harder to do this activity with other dogs around? What could you do to make it easier for your dog?• Do you feel comfortable now working with your dog to be able to start obedience training?

SECTION 5B – OBEDIENCE

Setting Objectives

Obedience is a way for a dog and its owner and family to become closer. It also makes a dog more socially acceptable, welcomed by others and a good member of the family.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand the importance of obedience training for a dog
- To be able to identify the proper equipment to be used for obedience training
- To understand the importance of praise and positive reinforcement
- To be able to identify, understand and execute basic obedience commands
- To learn about obedience trials for dogs in Canada and the expectations of the handler and the dog
- To realize the various levels of obedience competition available

Roll Calls

- What kind of training have you done with your dog?
- Name a command that should be taught to a dog.
- Which commands does your dog know?
- What facilities are close by that offer dog training?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 40 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Obedience Training Tips <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handlers Appearance • Leashes • Collars • Commands or Signals • Hands • Praise • Release Word • Attention & Targeting • Proofing 5 Basic Commands To Get You Started - Training Basic Obedience Exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit • Stay • Heel • Down • Come Other Basic Commands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand • Figure 8 • Stand for Exam • Recall • Finish 	120 min + Activites

<p>Topic Information, Discussion & Activities</p>	<p>Obedience Trials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Novice • Novice • Novice Intermediate • Open • Utility • Obedience Trial Championships • Exhibition Class Only • Unofficial Classes <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>Basic Training Tips and Techniques</p> <p>Obedience Course</p>	<p>120 min + Activites</p>
<p>At Home Activity</p>	<p>Dog Obedience Interview</p>	<p>5 min</p>
<p>Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time</p>		<p>10 min</p>

TOPIC INFORMATION

Obedience

Obedience trials were designed to test the dog's suitability as a good companion. Basic tests include heeling (on and off lead), sit, down, stand, stay and coming when called. At more advanced levels, dogs are asked to jump, retrieve, respond to signals, and identify and retrieve articles carrying their handlers' scent.

Keeping everything you have learned in mind, it's time to develop your training skills and prepare for formal training. You have learned about positive training methods and how behaviour shaping and praise and rewards work in the 'Getting Started with Training' section of this project.

When you are training obedience exercises, remember that they are comprised of several different steps. Teaching your dog to retrieve a dumbbell is a combination of the dog learning to take the dumbbell from your hand, learning to hold it until you tell him to let go, learning to release it to your hand rather than dropping it on the floor learning to walk with it learning to reach for it and learning to pick it up from the ground. If you skip steps or try to progress too fast, problems can develop. Make sure your dog really understands what you are asking before you progress to the next step. If things are suddenly going wrong, it means your dog is confused. Back up a step or two and teach it to your dog again. Above all, don't lose patience with your dog. Try to end training sessions on a positive note by doing something your dog knows how to do well.

Training Tips

- Always train with a positive attitude. There is no room for harshness in training your dog and there is a difference between firmness and harshness.
- When teaching your dog, use your voice in a positive, upbeat manner.
- Keep your training sessions short. It is better to do several short sessions rather than one long one. Training for five or ten minutes every day is better than training for an hour once a week.
- Make sure your dog is exercised before you start training. A dog that is bouncing off the walls is not paying attention to what you are trying to teach.
- Remember to keep training fun. If you lose your patience, you risk undoing all you have accomplished. Take a break, think about what was going wrong and how to change it and then resume training when you are calmer.
- Use lots of small food treats for rewarding. This is food for behaviour performed, not just food for no reason.

- When your dog has learned to work exercises solidly, slowly begin removing food treat rewards. Treats are still be given in training, but only occasionally, for better than average responses. Leave the treats out of certain parts of the exercises in order for your dog to learn to work without constant food treats. Continue to use verbal praise.

When your dog is doing really well, you can do all parts of your exercises without food treats. This should only be done once a week. When your dog is finished working their exercises make sure to do something great for them. Play ball, run with your dog or do something else your dog really enjoys. This activity will be your dog's ultimate reward.

Handler's Appearance

While dressing for obedience is less formal than when dressing for showmanship, you still need to be neat, clean and well-groomed. Examples of acceptable clothing for obedience include dress pants, dress shorts, skorts, capris or cropped pants, collared blouses and shirts, polo shirts or similar attire. Shoes should have non-slip soles and low or no heels. Practice running and bending over in your show outfit. Practice handling the dog in the show clothes and shoes you have chosen to wear.

Things not to wear:

- clothing that is too tight or too revealing, such as short skirts, short shorts, tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, low cut blouses or shirts, shorts hanging too low on the waist
- clothing with holes or tears in the fabric
- blue jeans, faded or torn jeans or any kind of other similar types of clothing
- excessive or oversized jewelry
- sashes
- anything that touches or distracts your dog
- shirts with club names or logos
- clothing with lettering and distracting or offensive wording or designs
- hats
- items in your hair that detract from your overall presentation as a team
- sandals, open-toed shoes, clogs or similar type shoes

Hair that must be continually brushed out of the eyes or that falls over the dog when you are showing is distracting. Long hair should be in a braid or ponytail or clipped in place out of the handler's face.

It is important for you to relax, smile and act happy while showing. A pleasant attitude and good sportsmanship go a long way toward making you and your dog a winning team.

Discuss It!

Look at what each person at your meeting is wearing. Would it be appropriate to wear into the showring? Decide which person in your group is dressed most appropriately for showing a dog in the showring.

Leashes

The leash or lead may be of fabric or leather and needs to be sufficient length to provide adequate slack when performing the heeling on a leash exercise. Chair leashes are not acceptable.

All dogs must be kept on a leash except when in the obedience ring or exercise area and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on a leash. Dogs must be kept on leash in the ring when brought in to receive awards and when waiting before and after the group exercises. Unless otherwise noted, the handler is to leave the leash on the judge's table between the individual exercises and during all exercises performed off leash.

Collars

Obedience collars include well-fitting plain buckle or quick release collars, martingales or slip collars of an appropriate single length of leather, fabric or chain with two rings (one on each end). Fancy collars, harnesses, studded collars, pinch collars, collars with prongs or spikes on the inside or outside, electronic collars, any other special training collars or collars that are either too tight or so large that they hang down unreasonably in front of the dog are not permitted in the show ring. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar.

Slip collars are often used as it is more difficult for a dog to slip back out of them. They may be used in training to give extra signals to your dog. There is a technique for using a slip collar as well as a right and wrong way to put it on. If the collar is kept tight, it is not effective in sending signals. The slip collar should never be left on a dog other than in a training session as it might become caught and strangle your dog.

Find It!

Either have members bring a variety of dog collars from home or look up pictures of collars online. Have members divide the collars into two piles – one pile being collars that are permitted in the showring and the other pile being collars that are not permitted in the show ring.

If you use a buckle collar, the identification tags should be attached with a ring like the one used on a key chain. This will allow you to easily remove the tags before showing in the ring.

Commands and Signals

When the rules say “command or signal,” either a single command or signal may be given, not both. Handlers are penalized for giving extra commands or signals or for giving a command and signal simultaneously.

When the rules say “command and/or signal,” the handler may give either a command or a signal or both a command and a signal simultaneously. When a signal is permitted, it must be a single gesture with one arm and hand only. The arm and hand must then be immediately returned to a natural position.

A delay in following a judge’s order to give a command or signal is penalized unless the judge directs the delay.

Signaling a correction to a dog is penalized.

Signals must be inaudible (noiseless) and the handler must not touch the dog. Any unusual motion or noise may be considered a signal. Positioning of the arms and hands and movements of the head and/or body that aid the dog are considered additional signals with the following exception:

- the handler may bend the body and knees to bring his or her hand level with the dog’s eyes while giving a signal to a dog in heel position

The signal for downing a dog may be given either with the arm raised or with a down swing of the arm. Any pause in holding the arm upright followed by a down swing of the arm is considered an additional signal.

Whistling of any kind is not allowed.

The dog's name may be used once immediately before any verbal command or before a verbal command and signal when these rules allow command and/or signal.

Loud commands by handlers to their dogs create a poor impression of obedience and should be avoided. Shouting is not necessary, even if the obedience ring area is noisy, if the dog is properly trained to respond to a normal tone of voice. Commands that the judge deems as excessively loud are substantially penalized.

Hands

Hands are to be carried naturally at your side. When heeling on a leash, the leash may be held in either hand or both hands, but the hands must be held in a natural position. Any tightening or jerking of the leash or use of extra commands and/or signal is penalized. Determine how you are going to hold your leash and hands prior to the first command you give your dog. The leash and hand position you begin your heeling exercise with should be the position you use throughout the heeling exercise, without any adjustment. Don't change hand position during an exercise. However, between exercises it is acceptable to use your hands to praise your dog.

In any exercise requiring the dog to sit in front, your arms and hands must hang naturally at your sides until the dog sits in front.

Praise

Praise and petting are encouraged and allowed between and after exercises. However, points are deducted from the total score for a dog that is not under reasonable control while being praised. There is a substantial penalty for any dog that is picked up or carried at any time in the obedience ring.

Release Word

A release word is a word you use to tell your dog the exercise is finished. All exercises have a beginning and an end. It is important that your dog learns to wait for your cue or signal that the exercise is over. Examples of release words include: All done! All finished! Okay!

Attention and Targeting

Remember to use your bridge words, lures (treats) and the games intended to help you to get your dog's attention. Attention is the key that makes training possible. Review the section titled 'Getting Started with Training.'

Do It!

Make a list of at least ten release words that would be used to tell your dog the exercise is finished.

Proofing

You should prepare your dog for things that might happen. Expose your dog to distractions, noises, unfamiliar places, different surfaces and strangers. These are all part of proofing your dog. It is important to make yourself the most interesting and reinforcing person your dog can see and hear.

Do It!

Make a list of places you could take your dog to expose them to different noises that they wouldn't hear when they are at home.

Share It!

Have you participated in a dog training class or course? Tell the group about your experience. Where was it? Did a family member go with you? How many dogs were in the class? What did your dog learn?

Reach Out!

Attend a dog obedience class to observe what happens during the class. If this isn't possible, find an online video about dog obedience training.

5 Basic Commands To Get You Started - Training Basic Obedience Exercises

Obedience trials were designed to test the dog's suitability as a good companion. Basic tests include heeling (on and off lead), Sit, Stand, Stay and coming when called. At more advanced levels, dogs are asked to jump, retrieve, respond to signals, and identify and retrieve articles carrying their handlers' scent.

Sit



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

It sounds like such a simple word, but the sit command can help in so many situations. To teach your dog to sit, you can wait for it to sit and praise your dog for doing it, or you can lure it into sitting. To do this, put a treat just above your dog's nose, move it back over its head and wait for its bum to drop. Don't forget to praise your dog.

Another option is to hold his collar and gently scoop his behind into place. Again, praise and reward him for his accomplishment. By placing your pup into a sit, not only are you teaching him to trust you, but also that human hands on him are non-threatening. These methods work well and can be used in conjunction with each other.

Once you have mastered the sit, use it to alleviate unruly behaviour such as jumping up. There is no need to scold your dog constantly. Instead, as he goes to jump up, say “Sit” then reward him for doing so.

Stay

Start by having your dog in a sit or a down and move away just one step. Return and reward it. Repetition is the name of this game, so be prepared to do this exercise many times. As your dog gets better, remain close to it but have it stay in this position a bit longer. The stay is taught in small increments of time and distance. At this stage, it’s best to leave your dog a bit longer with you close than to walk too far away from it. Once your dog gets the hang of it, you can start to move further away. Always return to your dog to reward it for doing a great job. If your dog gets up, simply return it to the exact place you left him.

The stay can be unnerving and stressful for some dogs – your dog watches you leave and when you return, it’s often to correct its behaviour. Reward your dog often and in the end, it will be happy to remain where its put.

It’s important that you return to your dog at least 60 per cent of the time to reward him, rather than calling him to you. Or say “wait” instead of “stay” when you’re going to call your dog out of the stay.

Heel



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

Judge It!

Research other methods of teaching a dog to sit. Find at least two that are different than the ones in this manual. Compare all of the methods of teaching a dog to sit and rank them starting with one being the one you think will be the most effective.

The more a behaviour is rewarded, the more it will occur. To teach your dog to walk nicely beside you, use a word (or the click of a clicker) to mark the correct behaviour and follow up with a reward, such as its favourite toy or treat.

At first, walk only two or three steps while maintaining eye contact and reward your dog every few steps. Over the next few weeks, walk further and further before rewarding him. Your dog will see that walking beside you is a rewarding activity. If it starts to pull, refocus your dog and reward more often. As you see improvement, you can start weaning it off the rewards.

Down



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

An easy way to teach your dog to lie down is to lure it into position. Have your dog sitting and hold its collar so it can't walk forward. Put a treat to its nose, then slowly move it toward its toes. Go slowly so your dog can follow it. Once it's lying down, give the treat immediately. You can also use a clicker and click/treat your dog for lying down. It's important to show your dog the down position without using force.

Check for any light under its belly – a crouch is not a down. Also keep in mind the shape of your dog's body. If your dog is a deep-chested breed, such as a Whippet, it might look awkward, but that's the best it can do.

Come



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

All dog owners want their dogs to come when called. Unfortunately, repeating “Come” over and over again will not teach your dog the command. Teach this word with the puppy on a leash – you can’t just unclip the leash and hope for the best.

Where do we start? Put your dog in a stay and hold the end of its leash. Bend over and take a few steps back, saying its name and “Come” in an upbeat, encouraging manner. Don’t use the leash to pull your dog toward you. It is just to keep it near you. If it doesn’t come toward you, stand even closer and try again. If your dog comes to you, have a party and reward your dog!

As soon as it comes consistently and enthusiastically, progress to a longer line – a 10 metres (30 foot) line works well. Practise in a low-distraction area and work your way up to more distractions over time. Even if you graduate to the park, leave a long line on. If your dog doesn’t come when called and runs the other way, step on the line to stop it, and encourage your dog to come to you. Calling in a louder and harsher tone will not help. Do the Recall exercise many times a day with a substantial reward every time your dog comes when called.

Practice It!

Practice the ‘come’ command with your dog in different situations such as in your backyard, in different areas of the house and out in a field (when doing this activity outdoors, always check with an adult or use a long lead line or rope attached to your dog (5 metres or longer)

Other Basic Commands

Stand

Start with your dog sitting. Using your food lure in front of your dog's nose, pull it straight up. Your dog will stand in order to reach the food. Once it is up, praise your dog and give it the treat. You can also guide your dog into a standing position by carefully sliding your hand under its abdomen and gently lifting. Another way to do this is to gently tug your dog forward until he stands and then block it from sitting by placing your hand in his tuck-up.

Figure 8

The purpose of the Figure 8 is for the judge to observe you and your dog's skill at moving between two "posts" spaced 8 feet apart. The "posts" are two people. The judge is looking for smoothness in handling and change of pace for your dog as it negotiates the inside and outside turns.

To perform the Figure 8, you approach the imaginary line between the two posts on the opposite side from the judge. To do this, walk around the posts and not through them, avoiding crossing in front of the judge. The judges something like 'This is the Figure 8 exercise. You may go either way. Are you ready?' There are two things to consider at this point:

- Is your dog straight and in heel position?
- Which way should you start?

When beginning to heel, start out on your left foot, as you should do anytime you heel with your dog. It is better to go to your left first because this gives you more control over your dog on the inside curve and hopefully sets you up for better attention from your dog. If you forget and start to the right, there is no penalty.

The goal is for the dog to move slower on the tight inside curve and to move faster and stay in heel position on the outside. You should keep your leash and hand position in place throughout the exercise. Don't tug on the leash or adapt to the dog's pace. Don't watch your dog while doing the Figure 8 because you will be more likely to move toward your dog and if you do, that will make bumping and crowding more likely. Look straight ahead.

To begin learning the Figure 8, practice weaving in your helping pattern. Talk to your dog while weaving around chairs, poles, cones and other available items. Encourage your dog to slow down and speed up when appropriate with your voice and treats. Work on keeping a smooth consistent pace.

In the Figure 8, there are at least two halts. The judge says ‘Halt.’ The judge is looking for fast, straight sits. It is your job to move in a way so that your dog is able to match your stride and come to a quick, straight sit. Never abruptly stop or stutter step into a stop. Be precise and consistent so your dog is familiar with your pattern.

Stand for Exam

The Stand for Exam is taught in the same manner as the Stay. The difference is that your dog doesn’t have to remain standing for a specific amount of time. Instead, your dog must stay in a standing position, without moving its feet, while the judge examines the dog. You stand your dog, give the stay command, walk to the end of the leash and turn and face your dog. The judge approaches your dog from the front, allowing the dog to sniff the judge’s hand. The judge then touches the dog’s head, shoulders and hindquarters. After the judge has finished their examination, the judge will step back and will tell you to return to your dog. You will go back to your dog’s left side, walk around your dog and return to the heel position.

There are several things to remember when doing the Stand for Exam. One is to make sure your dog is standing balanced evenly on all four feet. If your dog has one foot stretched out of position, it is much more likely to move it back to a square position. Another thing to remember is not touch your dog when giving it the stay command. The last thing is to be careful with the leash both going away and returning to your dog. An accidental tug can cause your dog to break its stay.

Recall

Make sure that any time you call your dog to you it is a positive experience. Never call your dog and then scold them. Coming to you should be a warm, welcoming experience.

Put your dog on a leash and walk with it. While it is walking forward, call your dog’s name, tell it to ‘come’ and take several steps backward, pulling it so that it comes to you and sits directly in front. You want your dog close enough to touch if you bend over but not so close that its touching you. Praise and reward your dog.

Once you and your dog have mastered this, it is time to introduce the formal recall. Put your dog in the heel position at your left side and tell it to stay. Step away from your dog on the right foot, walk to the end of the leash and turn to face your dog. Say your dog's name in a happy tone of voice and tell it to come. Since this is a bit farther away than in the original exercise, you may need to encourage your dog with your voice or even run backwards a bit while calling 'come.' Be sure to be enthusiastic with your praise.

Finish

Another part of the recall exercise is the Finish. This is where your dog moves from sitting in front of you to the heel position. There are two ways of doing this. The dog may go to your right and around behind you to sit at your left side or your dog may go to your left and do a small circle to get into heel position. Some dogs show a preference for one over the other but if you plan on doing Rally, you should teach both ways. Remember, it isn't which way your dog gets there that is important. It's how quickly and accurately it achieves the correct heel position.

When practicing for the right around finish, one suggestion is to have treats in both hands, using the treat in your right hand to begin luring your dog around to the right and then picking up with the treat in your left hand, bringing your dog to a heel position on your left. You need to start by taking a step back with your right foot, fading that away as your dog understands what you want. For the finish to the left, begin with a step back with your left foot and lure your dog far enough behind you for its body to make a complete turn around and come back to a heel position. The larger the dog, the farther back it needs to go in order to come in straight. Then you also fade the step back.

There are two things to remember when doing the finish. One is to not move your feet while the dog is performing this. You may have to move them when you are teaching this exercise in order to guide your dog around. But, as your dog becomes more adept, you must train yourself to stand still. Moving your feet causes you to lose points as it is considered an extra command. The other things to remember is to not practice the finish at the end of the recall exercise every time. You need to practice them as two separate exercises or your dog may anticipate the finish and not sit at the front on the recall. Vary the times when you put the two exercises together during practice.

Practice It!

Try doing the recall and the finish with your dog. Keep practicing, using short training sessions, until both you and your dog are comfortable with this activity. This may take several weeks or months for you and your dog to be able to do this activity successfully.

Obedience Trials



Image Credit: American Kennel Club <https://www.akc.org>

The purpose of obedience trials is to demonstrate the usefulness of the dog as a companion of man, not just the dog's ability to follow specified routines in the obedience ring. The basic objective of obedience trials is to produce dogs that have been trained to behave in the home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs, in a manner that reflects credit on the sport of obedience. Obedience trials are a sport and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both inside and outside the ring. All participants in a class are required to perform the same exercises in substantially the same way so that the relative quality of the various performances may be compared and scored.

The following classes for obedience are set out by the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC):

- Pre-Novice
- Novice
- Novice Intermediate
- Open
- Utility

Experience It!

Attend an Obedience Trial in your area. Observe the variety of dogs, the various classes of competition and what the handlers have to do while competing. If it isn't possible to attend an obedience trial in person, view a video online to see what takes place at these events.

PRE-NOVICE

The Pre-Novice class is an elective class for exhibitors and earning the title is not a requirement for a dog to enter Novice classes.

The Pre-Novice class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has not earned the title of PCD (Pre Companion Dog).

Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

The same handler must handle each dog in all five exercises unless he or she has two or more dogs entered. In such cases, there must be an additional handler for each extra dog when they are judged together in the group exercise.

Only dogs that have not earned the title of CD may enter the Pre-Novice class.

Exercises

The order of exercises are:

- Heel on Leash
- Figure 8
- Sit for Examination
- Recall
- Group Sit or Down (judge's option).

Look It Up!

Visit the Canadian Kennel Club's website for the most up-to-date obedience trial competition information and descriptions of the exercises performed at each level of competition.

Share It!

Working in groups of two, choose one of the exercises listed below, find out what the handler and dog are supposed to do to complete the exercise and share with the group. If possible, demonstrate the activity with your dog.

NOVICE

Novice A

The Novice A class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has not earned the title of CD (Companion Dog).

Only one dog per handler is allowed in this class, and that person must handle the dog in all exercises. The handler of any dog in this class must be the owner, co-owner or a member of their immediate families. No person who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned a CDX (Companion Dog Excellent) title shall be allowed to handle a dog in this class.

Novice B

The Novice B class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has not earned the title of CD.

Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. The same handler must handle each dog in all six exercises unless he or she has two or more dogs entered. In such cases, there must be an additional handler for each extra dog when they are judged together in the group exercises.

No dog may be entered in both the Novice A and Novice B class at any one trial.

Novice C

The Novice C class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title CD or any higher obedience titles.

Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. The same handler must handle each dog in all six exercises unless he or she has two or more dogs entered. In such cases, there must be an additional handler for each extra dog when they are judged together in the group exercises.

Dogs may compete in the Novice C class indefinitely. Scores earned by dogs entered in the Novice C class are not eligible for High in Trial and do not qualify a dog for any title.

Dogs may be entered in the Novice C class in addition to any other official or unofficial classes for which they are eligible.

Exercises & Scores

The order of exercises and scores are:

- Heel on Leash and Figure 8 – 40 points
- Stand for Examination – 30 points
- Heel Free – 40 points
- Recall – 30 points
- Group Sit – 30 points
- Group Down – 30 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Companion Dog Title (CD)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters CD, signifying Companion Dog, to be used in connection with and after the name of each dog that has met the requirements for that title as hereinafter provided.

To be permitted to use the title Companion Dog a dog must:

- be registered with the CKC, or have an Event Registration Number (ERN), a Performance Event Number (PEN) or a Canine Companion Number (CCN), or if listed in the miscellaneous list, a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN);
- earn a qualifying score of more than 50% of the available points in each of the six exercises and a total score of 170 or more points in the Novice Class at three (3) obedience trials held under these rules;
- earn three (3) qualifying scores under at least two (2) different judges in the Novice A and/or B class.

When the above requirements for the title Companion Dog are fully met, the owner (who must be recorded as owner in the records of the CKC) shall be entitled to a certificate issued by the CKC certifying that the title has been earned at approved trials held under CKC rules.

NOVICE INTERMEDIATE

The Novice Intermediate class is an elective class for exhibitors and earning the title is not a requirement for a dog to enter the Open classes.

The Novice Intermediate class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned a CD or any higher obedience trial titles.

Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may enter more than one dog in this class. The same handler must handle each dog in all six exercises. Dogs may compete in the Novice Intermediate class indefinitely. Scores earned by dogs competing in this class are not eligible for High in Trial.

Dogs may be entered in the Novice Intermediate class in addition to any other official or unofficial classes for which they are eligible.

Exercises & Scores

The order of exercises and scores are:

- Heel Free & Figure 8 - 40 points
- Stand for Examination - 30 points
- Drop from Heel - 35 points
- Recall Holding Dumbbell - 30 points
- Recall over High Jump Holding Dumbbell - 40 points
- Recall over Broad Jump - 25 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Companion Dog Intermediate Title (CDI)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters CDI, signifying Companion Dog Intermediate, to be used in connection with and after the name of each dog that has met the requirements for that title as hereinafter provided.

To be permitted to use the title Companion Dog Intermediate a dog must:

- be registered with the CKC, or have an Event Registration Number (ERN), a Performance Event Number (PEN) or a Canine Companion Number (CCN), or if listed in the miscellaneous list, a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN);

- earn a qualifying score of more than 50% of the available points in each of the six exercises and a total score of 170 or more points in the Novice Intermediate class a three (3) obedience trials held under these regulations;
- earn three (3) qualifying scores under at least two (2) different judges in the Novice Intermediate class.

When the foregoing requirements for the title Companion Dog Intermediate are fully met, the owner (who must be recorded as owner in the records of the CKC) shall be entitled to a certificate issued by the CKC certifying that the title has been earned at approved trials held under CKC regulations.

OPEN CLASS

Open Classes

There are four (4) Open classes: The Open HA and Open HB classes, which include the Out of Sight Group Stay Exercises and the Open 18A and Open 18B classes, which include the Change of Positions and Group Sit - Walk Around exercises.

No dog can be entered in more than one Open class at any one trial.

Open HA & Open 18A

The Open A classes shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title of CD but has not earned the title of CDX. The handler of any dog in these classes must be the owner, co-owner or a member of their immediate families.

Only one dog per handler is allowed in these classes and that person must handle the dog in all exercises. Any person who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned a UD title may not handle a dog in these classes.

Open HB & Open 18B

The Open B classes shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title of CD. Dogs that have earned the title of CDX or any higher obedience titles may enter either of the Open B classes. A dog may also be entered in the Utility class in the same trial.

Dogs in these classes may be handled by the owner or any other person. A person may enter or handle more than one dog in these classes. The same handler must handle each dog in all seven exercises unless he or she has two or more dogs entered. In such case, there must be an additional handler for each extra dog when they are judged together in the group exercise(s).

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will choose which of the six numbered routines is to be performed for Open HB and Open 18B, and which sequence of positions is to be performed in the Change of Positions exercise in the Open 18B class (in the Open 18A class only sequence (a) will be performed). These choices will not be disclosed to exhibitors until they are posted at ring side at least 30 minutes before the start of each class and never more than one hour before the start of the trial. In future competitions, judges are required to alternate the six routines and the six position-change sequences so that each routine and sequence will be used approximately the same number of times.

Exercises and Scores for Open HA & 18A

The order of exercises and scores are:

12.4 Exercises and Scores for Open HA & 18A *(05-10-17)*

12.4.1 The order of exercises and scores shall be:
(05-10-17)

	OPEN HA	PTS	OPEN 18A	PTS
a)	Heel Free & Figure 8	40	Heel Free & Figure 8	40
b)	Drop on Recall	30	Drop on Recall	30
c)	Retrieve on Flat	25	Retrieve on Flat	25
d)	Retrieve over High Jump	35	Retrieve over High Jump	35
e)	Broad Jump	20	Broad Jump	20
f)	Group Sit	25	Change of Positions (a)	30
g)	Group Down	25	Group Sit - Walk Around	20
	Maximum Total Score	200	Maximum Total Score	200

Exercises and Scores for Open HB & 18B

The various routines are as follows. The points and total scores are the same as for Open HA and 18A.

INSERT CHART FROM PAGE 47 & 48 Combined-Rally-and-Obedience-Rules-and-Regulations

The various routines are as follows. The points and total scores are the same as for Open HA and 18A.

12.5 Exercises and Scores for Open HB & 18B (05-10-17)

12.5.1 The various routines shall be as listed here. The points and total scores (05-10-17) will be the same as for Open HA and 18A.

Routine #	Open HB	Open 18B
1	a) Heel Free & Figure 8	a) Heel Free & Figure 8
	b) Drop on Recall	b) Drop on Recall
	c) Retrieve on Flat	c) Retrieve on Flat
	d) Retrieve over High Jump	d) Retrieve over High Jump
	e) Broad Jump	e) Broad Jump
		f) Change of Positions
2	a) Broad Jump	a) Change of Positions
	b) Retrieve over High Jump	a) Broad Jump
	c) Retrieve on Flat	b) Retrieve over High Jump
	d) Drop on Recall	c) Retrieve on Flat
	e) Figure 8 & Heel Free	d) Drop on Recall
		e) Figure 8 & Heel Free
3	a) Retrieve on Flat	a) Retrieve on Flat
	b) Drop on Recall	b) Change of Positions
	c) Retrieve over High Jump	c) Drop on Recall
	d) Broad Jump	d) Retrieve over High Jump
	e) Figure 8 & Heel Free	e) Broad Jump
		f) Figure 8 & Heel Free
4	a) Drop on Recall	a) Drop on Recall
	b) Heel Free & Figure 8	b) Heel Free & Figure 8
	c) Retrieve over High Jump	c) Change of Positions
	d) Broad Jump	d) Retrieve over High Jump
	e) Retrieve on Flat	e) Broad Jump
		f) Retrieve on Flat
5	a) Retrieve over High Jump	a) Retrieve over High Jump
	b) Drop on Recall	b) Drop on Recall
	c) Figure 8 & Heel Free	c) Figure 8 & Heel Free
	d) Retrieve on Flat	d) Change of Positions
	e) Broad Jump	d) Retrieve on Flat
	e) Broad Jump	

6	a) Broad Jump	a) Broad Jump
	b) Figure 8 & Heel Free	b) Figure 8 & Heel Free
	c) Drop on Recall	c) Drop on Recall
	d) Retrieve over High Jump	d) Retrieve over High Jump
	e) Retrieve on Flat	e) Change of Positions
		f) Retrieve on Flat
	All routines shall be followed by a Group Sit and Group Down as in Open HA	All routines shall be followed by a Group Sit - Walk Around as in Open 18A

Companion Dog Excellent Title (CDX)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters CDX, signifying Companion Dog Excellent, to be used in connection with and after the name of each dog that has met the requirements for that title.

To be permitted to use the title Companion Dog Excellent a dog must:

- be registered with the CKC, or have an Event Registration Number (ERN), a Performance Event Number (PEN) or a Canine Companion Number (CCN), or if listed in the miscellaneous list, a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN);
- earn a qualifying score of more than 50% of the available points in each of the seven exercises and a total score of 170 or more points in the Open HA, Open 18A, Open HB or Open 18B classes at three (3) obedience trials held under these regulations;
- earn three (3) qualifying scores under at least two (2) different judges in the Open HA, Open 18A, Open HB and/or Open 18B classes.

When the above requirements for the title of Companion Dog Excellent are fully met, the owner (who must be recorded as owner in the records of the CKC) will be entitled to a certificate issued by the CKC certifying that the title has been earned at approved trials held under CKC regulations.

UTILITY CLASS

Utility A

The Utility A class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title of CDX but has not earned the title of UD (Utility Dog).

Any person who has trained or exhibited a dog that has earned a MOTCH title may not handle dogs in this class. The handler of any dog in this class must be the owner, co-owner or a member of their immediate families. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person must handle the dog in all exercises.

Utility B

The Utility B class shall be for any dog of any recognized or listed breed, mixed breed or unrecognized breed that has earned the title of CDX or UD.

Dogs in this class may be handled by the owner or any other person. Owners may enter more than one dog in this class. The same person must handle the dog in all exercises.

No dog may be entered in both the Utility A and Utility B classes at any one trial.

Prior to the start of judging, the judge will choose which of the six numbered routines will be performed. This choice will not be disclosed to exhibitors until it is posted at ring side at least 30 minutes before the start of the class and never more than one hour before the start of the trial. In future competitions, judges are required to alternate the six routines so that each will be used approximately the same number of times.

Discuss It!

Why do you think the choice of Exercises isn't posted until 30 minutes to one hour before the start of the competition?

Exercises & Scores for Utility A

The order of exercises and scores are:

- Seek Back - 30 points
- Scent Discrimination – Article 1 - 30 points
- Scent Discrimination – Article 2 - 30 points
- Signal Exercise - 40 points
- Moving Stand - 30 points
- Directed Jumping - 40 points

Maximum Total Score 200 points

Exercises & Scores for Utility B

The judge can choose any one of the following routines for participants to be judged on. The points and total scores are the same as for Utility A.

UTILITY 1

- Seek Back
- Scent Discrimination Article No.1
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 2
- Signal Exercise
- Moving Stand
- Directed Jumping

UTILITY 2

- Signal Exercise
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 1
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 2
- Seek Back
- Moving Stand
- Directed Jumping

UTILITY 3

- Directed Jumping
- Moving Stand
- Seek Back
- Scent Discrimination Article No.1
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 2
- Signal Exercise

UTILITY 4

- Scent Discrimination Article No.1
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 2
- Seek Back
- Signal Exercise
- Moving Stand
- Directed Jumping

UTILITY 5

- Moving Stand
- Directed Jumping
- Signal Exercise
- Seek Back
- Scent Discrimination Article No.1
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 2

UTILITY 6

- Seek Back
- Signal Exercise
- Directed Jumping
- Moving Stand
- Scent Discrimination Article No.1
- Scent Discrimination Article No. 2

Utility Dog Title (UD)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters UD, signifying Utility Dog, to be used in connection with and after the name of each dog that has met the requirements for that title as hereinafter provided.

To be permitted to use the title Utility Dog a dog must:

- be registered with the CKC, or have an Event Registration Number (ERN), a Performance Event Number (PEN) or a Canine Companion Number (CCN), or if listed in the miscellaneous list, a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN);
- earn a qualifying score of more than 50% of the available points in each of the six exercises and a total score of 170 or more points in the Utility Class at three (3) obedience trials held under these regulations;
- earn three (3) qualifying scores under at least two (2) different judges in the Utility A and/or B class.

When the above requirements for the title of Utility Dog are fully met, the owner (who must be recorded as owner in the records of the CKC) will be entitled to a certificate issued by the CKC certifying that the title has been earned at approved trials held under CKC regulations.

Discuss It!

Why would someone want to compete in Obedience trials with their dog?

OBEDIENCE TRIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH)

Any dog having attained the three obedience trial titles of CD, CDX and UD can be recognized as an Obedience Trial Champion and is entitled to bear the prefix OTCH before its name.

Obedience Trial Champion Excellent (OTCHX)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters OTCHX to be used as a prefix of the name of any dog that has met the requirements for this title. This title may only be earned after the completion of the OTCH title.

The dog must qualify in one of the Open B classes and the Utility B Class in the same trial on five (5) different occasions.

Master Obedience Trial Champion (MOTCH)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters MOTCH to be used as a prefix of the name of any dog that has met the requirements for this title. Points for this title may only be accumulated after the completion of the OTCH title. Points may be accumulated simultaneously with credits toward both the OTCHX and MOTCH titles. The MOTCH title will not be awarded until completion of the OTCHX title.

Grand Master Obedience Trial Champion (GMOTCH)

The CKC will permit the use of the letters GMOTCH to be used as a prefix of the name of any dog that has met the requirements for this title. Requirements for this title may only be accumulated after the completion of the Master Obedience Trial Champion title.

The requirements are:

- a minimum score of 195 points in either of the Open B classes and the Utility B class at the same trial at 10 separate trials;
- pairs must be earned under a minimum of 10 different judges. A pair may be counted under two (2) different judges, provided it is earned in the same trial;
- a High in Trial with a score of 195 or higher out of either of the Open B classes;
- a High in Trial with a score of 195 or higher out of the Utility B class.

EXHIBITION ONLY CLASS

Exhibition Only

This is an official class. A dog may be entered for Exhibition Only, which is an official class that must be specified on the entry form. All dogs entered in this class will be listed in the catalogue with the same details as for a dog entered for competition. No dog entered in the Exhibition Class can compete in any regular class. However, it may be entered in and compete in any unofficial class or parade offered at the trial if the listed fees are paid.

UNOFFICIAL CLASSES

Unofficial obedience classes may be offered at the option of the trial-giving club and may be held by any club holding an approved obedience trial, providing all the official classes are offered. All dogs entered in the unofficial classes must be entered in one of the official classes or Exhibition Only.

- Graduate Novice Class
- Graduate Open Class
- Versatility Class
- Wild Card Classes
- Brace Class
- Team Class
- Veterans Class
- Parade of Title Holders & Parade of Veterans

Research It!

Choose one of the unofficial classes and find out more information about it. What are dogs and their handlers judged on in the class that you have picked?

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Interview someone outside of your club that has participated in a dog obedience competition. Find out what they did to prepare, where the competition(s) was held and what the experience was like.

If you aren't able to find anyone, create a list of ten questions you would want to ask someone who participates in dog obedience competitions.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

What kind of training does someone need to be able to be an instructor for dog obedience classes? Find out if there is special course that needs to be taken or formalized certification required to be able to offer this type of course. Be prepared to present your findings at the next meeting.

ACTIVITY #1

BASIC TRAINING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

DO	<p>Time: 15 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper• Pen or pencil <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members identify what training techniques they have used/would use to train their dog to follow these commands: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sit and stay- Down- Heeling (with a leash)- Heeling (without a leash)- Come- Recall
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to reflect on their training techniques and to hear the training techniques of others.</p> <p>To identify the most successful techniques and have members potentially change the method in which they train and work with their dog.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you consider yourself a good trainer?• Which techniques do you think work the best for training a dog?• What will you do to keep improving your training techniques?• Will you try something different the next time?

ACTIVITY #2

OBEDIENCE COURSE

DO	<p>Time: 40 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper• Pen or pencil• Pylons• Number cards to mark the course <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members work individually or in pairs to design an obedience course on paper, using the commands learned in this section. Each course doesn't have to include all of the commands. If possible, have members watch a video first to get an idea of what the obedience course should look like.• Once the course has been designed on paper, have each group take a turn, using the pylons, to mark the course in the room, or outdoors, if space permits.• If members wish, they can attempt the obedience course with their dog to see how well their obedience training with their dog is coming along and what they still need to work on
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to reflect on the thought that goes into designing an obedience course.</p> <p>To allow members to offer feedback to each other about techniques for improvement</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was it easy or hard to design the obedience course?• When you set out the pylons, did the course look exactly like your diagram?• If you attempted the course with your dog, what did learn about the stage you are at with training your dog?• How did you and your dog deal with distractions?• How could you build a better course next time?• Do you think you could set up a similar course at home to keep your dog interested in training?

CONFORMATION, SHOWMANSHIP & SPORTSMANSHIP



SECTION 6A – CONFORMATION, SHOWMANSHIP & SPORTSMANSHIP

Setting Objectives

Knowing what conformation traits a certain breed of dog should have will go a long way to helping with success in the showing. Knowing how to demonstrate sportsmanship, handling and ring procedures required for competitions will go a long way to helping to ensure success when competing in showmanship trials. This unit helps to increase the knowledge and comfort levels of those wanting to compete with their dogs in either conformation or showmanship or both!

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand what conformation is and how to identify various types
- To be able to identify conformation traits on their own dog
- To understand what showmanship is and what to expect in the showing
- To identify various patterns used in the showing
- To learn about showmanship etiquette
- To appreciate good sportsmanship when showing dogs

Roll Calls

- Does your dog have a particular structural trait that was one of the reasons that you chose that breed of dog? (i.e. curly tail, webbed feet)
- Name one reason why someone would want to show their animal in a showmanship competition.
- Would you like to show your dog in a showmanship competition? Why or why not?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 40 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes and Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Conformation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bites • Ears • Eyes • Tails • Toplines • Feet • Forequarters • Front legs • Hindquarters • Rear legs What the Judge Looks For Showmanship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for Showmanship • Stacking • Gaiting • Individual Exam • Courtesy Turn • Down and Back Pattern (One Dog) • Down and Back Pattern (Two Dogs) • Triangle Pattern • “L” Pattern • “T” Pattern • After Performing a Pattern • Breed Presentation • Knowledge of Ring Procedure • Use of Bait • Handler’s Appearance • Equipment CKC Junior Handler Program	120 min + Activites

Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Activities</u> Conformation Challenge Table or Floor	120 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Becoming A Dog Show Judge	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

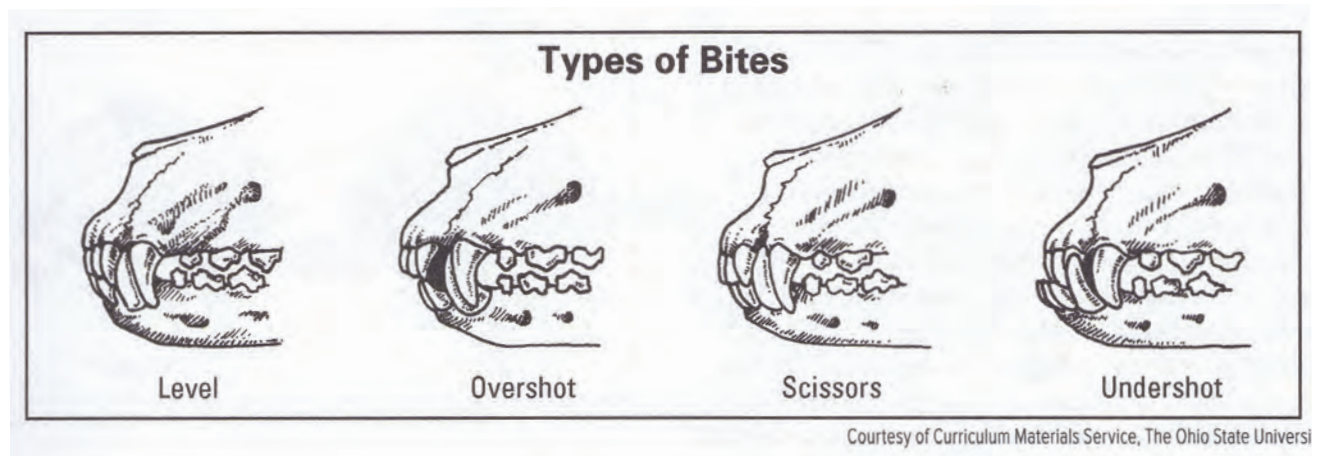
TOPIC INFORMATION

Some Images and Excerpts used with permission from the Dog Resource Handbook, Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Conformation

Conformation refers to the form, structure, make, shape and arrangement of the parts of the dog as they conform to the breed standard. What is a fault in one breed may not be a fault in another breed. Always check the breed standard.

Bites

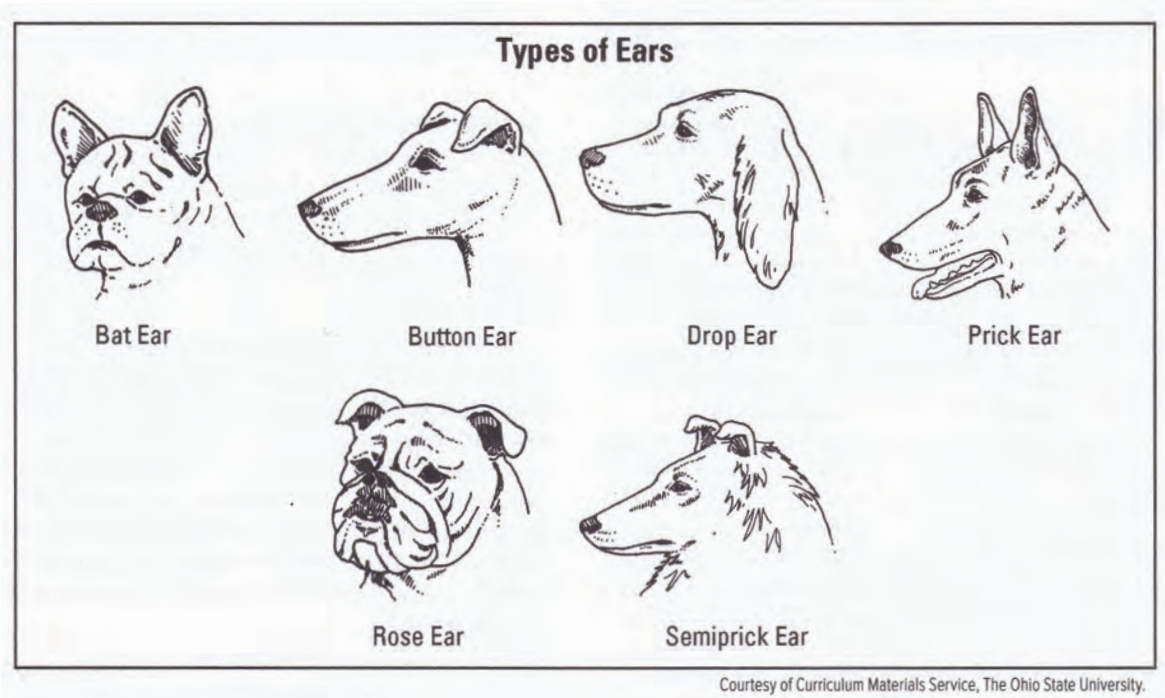


The bite is the position of the upper and lower teeth when the mouth is closed. A level bite is when the front teeth or incisors of the upper and lower jaws meet exactly tip to tip. In a scissors bite, the outside edge of the lower incisors just touches the inside edge of the upper incisors. An undershot bite is where the front teeth of the upper jaw do not reach as far forward as the front teeth of the lower jaw when the mouth is closed. In an overshot bite, the incisors of the upper jaw extend beyond the incisors of the lower jaw, which results in a space between the inner and outer surfaces. Overshot and undershot bites are comparative to the lower jaw.

Do It!

List at least one breed that should have a level bite as well as one breed for each of the other types of bites. As a group compare your answers to see how many breeds you can list for each bite. What type of bite does your dog have?

Ears



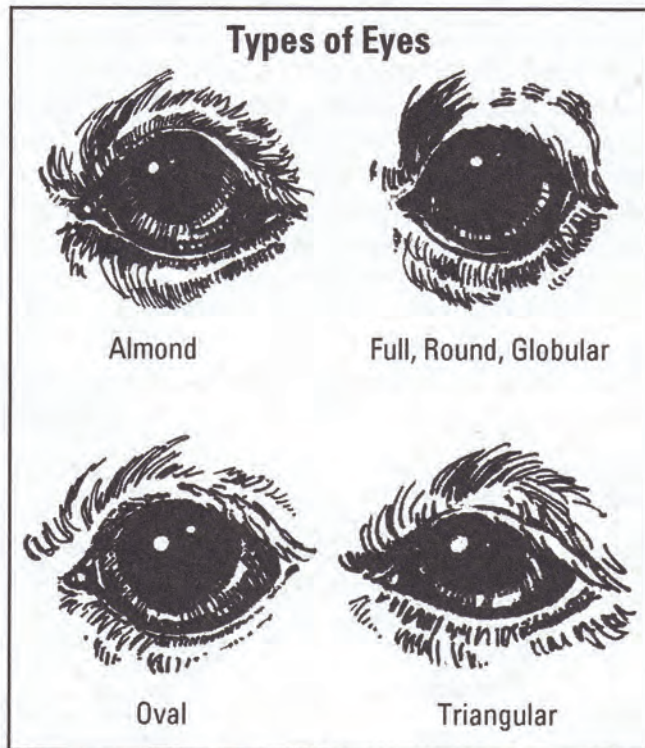
Ear styles of many breeds of dogs evolved according to their purpose. Ear carriage is defined as the combined visual effects of ear placement and position on the skull together with the use of the ear. There are six main ear types:

1. **Bat Ear** - is an erect ear that is broad at the base, rounded at the top and with the opening directed to the front
2. **Button Ear** – the ear flap folds forward with the tip lying close to the skull so it covers the opening
3. **Drop Ear** – is one of more than 30 terms used to characterize ears in which the ear leather is folded at least to some degree and hanging down
4. **Prick Ear** – an erect ear carriage that is usually pointed at the top
5. **Rose Ear** – is a small drop ear that folds over and back so it reveals the burr (the inside of the ear)
6. **Semipricket Ear** – is carried erect with just the tips leaning forward

Do It!

List at least one breed of dog for each of the types of ears. Find pictures, if possible, of each of these breeds, showcasing their ears. What type of ears does your dog have?

Eyes



Courtesy of Curriculum Materials Service, The Ohio State University.

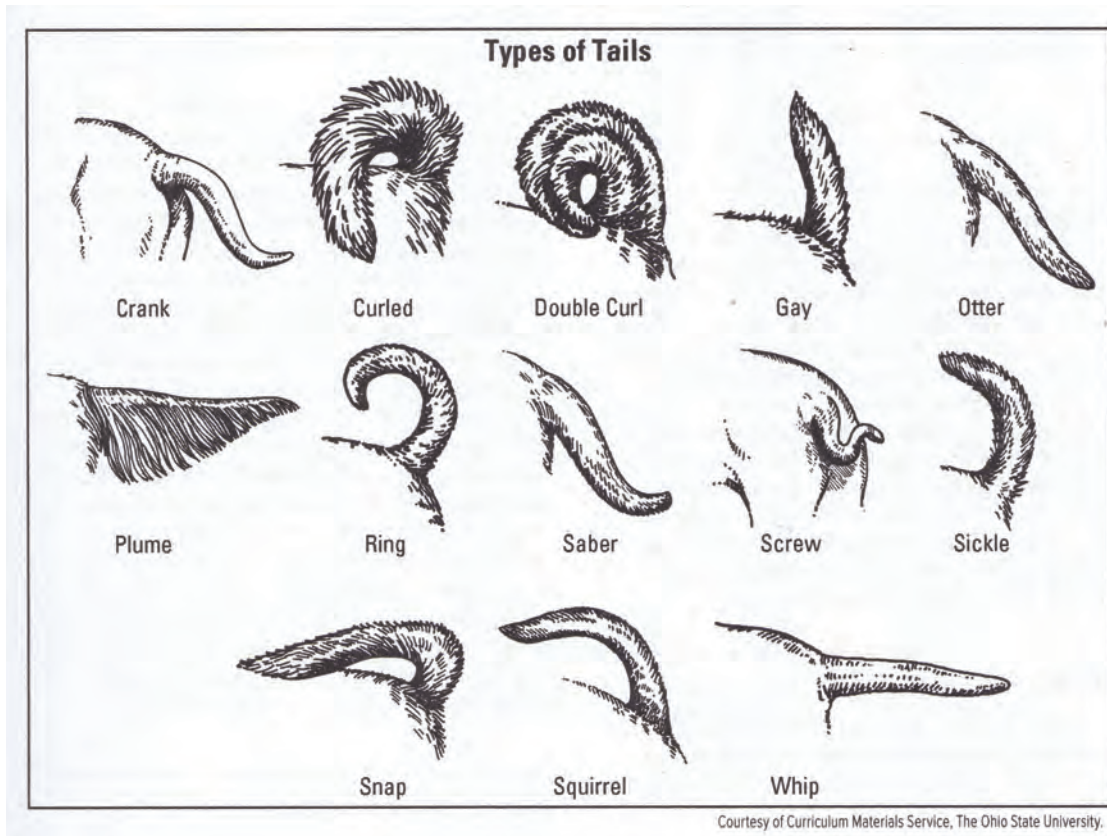
Eye shapes refer to the shape of the tissue that actually surrounds the eye. The four main eyes shapes are:

1. **Almond** – this type has an elongated eye shape that describes the tissue surrounding the eye itself and is shaped like an almond
2. **Oval** – (also referred to as an oblong eye) is where the eyelid opening appears longer than higher with the contours and corners gently rounded
3. **Round** – (also called full or globular) is set in a circular-shaped opening
4. **Triangular** – this type looks like three-cornered eyes, where the surrounding tissue is a triangular shape

Do It!

List at least one breed of dog for each the types of eyes. Find pictures, if possible, of each of these breeds, showcasing their eyes. What type of eyes does your dog have?

Tails



The conformation of the tail varies by breed, with several breeds displaying different tail carriage depending on their posture. Tail carriage refers to the manner in which the tail is displayed:

1. **Crank Tail** – is carried low and shaped like a crank
2. **Curled Tail** – is carried up and over the back. It can be a tight curl over the back, a single curl falling over the loin with the tip toward the thigh or curled to one side
3. **Double-curl Tail** – curls over the dog's back in a whirlpool shape
4. **Gay Tail** – is carried higher than the horizontal level of the back
5. **Otter Tail** – is thick at the base, round and tapering, with the hair parted or divided on the underside
6. **Plume Tail** – has a long fringe of hair on the tail that covers either part of the tail or the entire tail
7. **Ring Tail** – is carried up and around almost forming a circle
8. **Saber Tail** – is carried in a semicircle
9. **Screw Tail** – is a naturally short tail, twisted in a spiral fashion

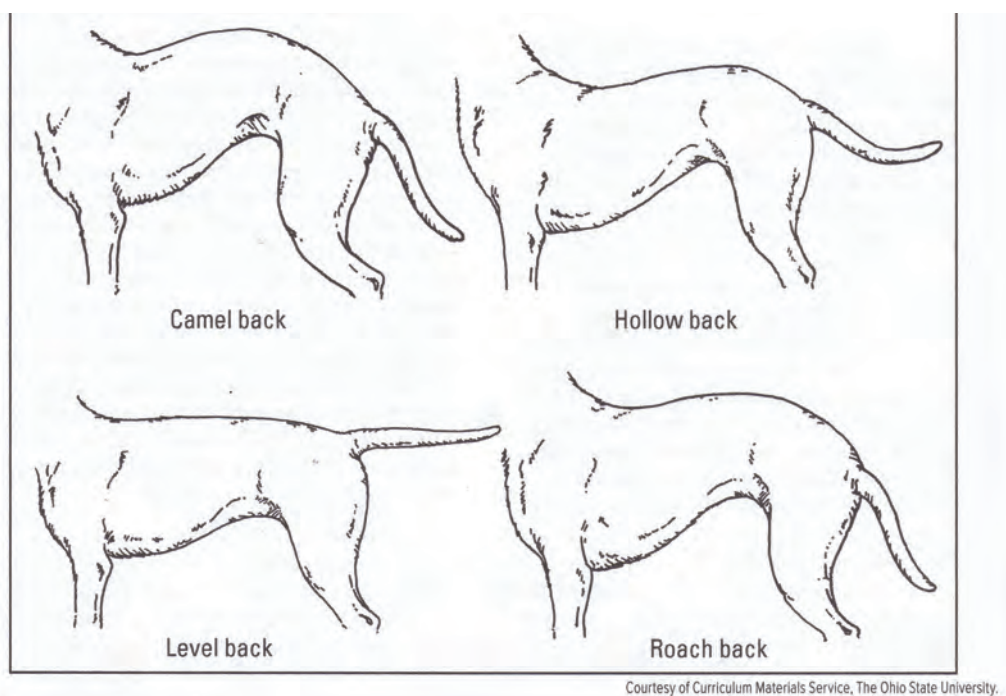
10. **Sickle Tail** – is a tail that is carried out and up in a semicircle but not touching the back

11. **Snap Tail** – lies directly on the dog's back with the tip pointing toward the dog's head

Do It!

List at least one breed of dog for each the types of tails. Find pictures, if possible, of each of these breeds, showcasing their eyes. What type of tail does your dog have?

Toplines



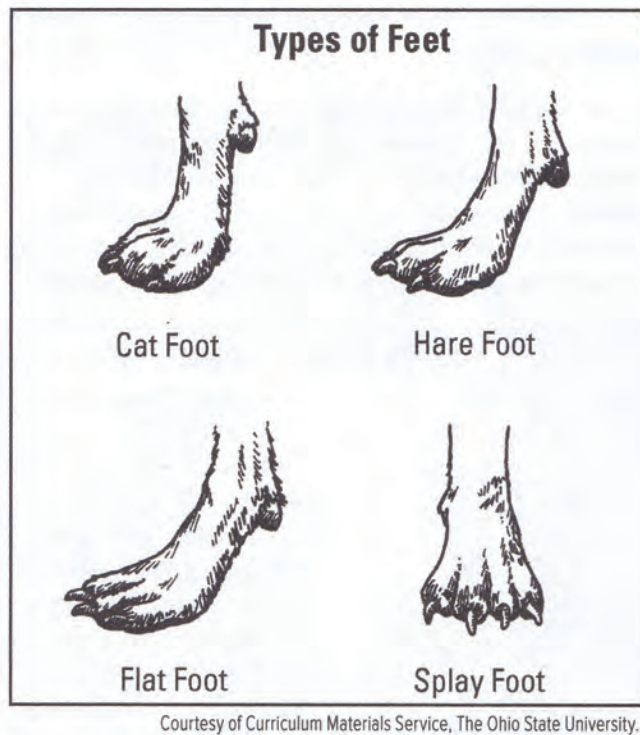
The topline, also called the backline, is defined as the dog's outline from just behind the withers to the tail set. Five toplines are:

1. **Camel back** – is an arched back, or convex curvature, from the neck to croup
2. **Hollow back** – has a dip or concave curvature in the topline
3. **Level back** – is when the height at the withers is the same as the height over the top of the loins
4. **Roach back** – is a convex curvature of the back, involving the thoracic and lumbar regions
5. **Saddle back** – (not pictured) is a back that is too long, with a dip or concave curvature behind the withers

Discuss It!

Which topline does your dog have? Name another breed that also has this same type of topline.

Feet



Dog's feet are designed to help them perform better. There are four types of feet

1. **Cat foot** – is a round, compact foot with short digital bones and well-arched toes that are tightly bunched together
2. **Hare foot** – has two centre digits that are noticeably longer than the inside and outside toes of the foot. The arching of the toes is not as pronounced as that of cat feet. Hare feet are designed for quick initial speed and jumping, but not for endurance
3. **Oval foot** – (not pictured) is spoon-shaped with both centre toes longer than cat feet but shorter than hare feet. They are a compromise between endurance and fast initial speed and jumping
4. **Webbed feet** - (not pictured) are connected by a membrane and are important for water-retrieving breeds or working in the snow

Dogs with **flat feet** have straight or flat toes when viewed from the side, without a noticeable arch. A **splay foot** is a flat foot with toes spreading out. The toes are set far apart from each other, usually with a lack of knuckling.

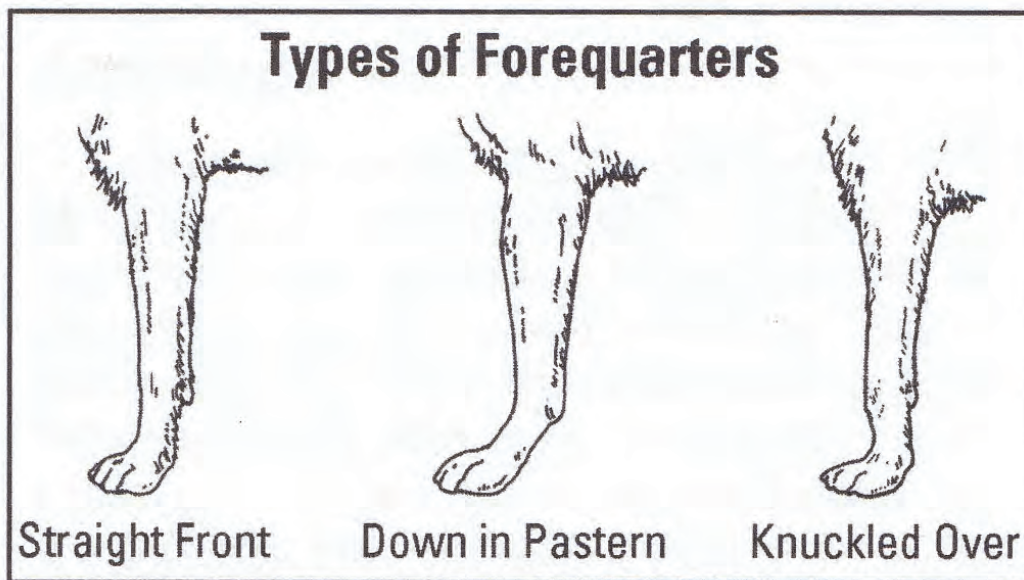
Share It!

What type of feet does your dog have?

Discuss It!

How would webbed feet help a dog or are webbed feet a disadvantage?

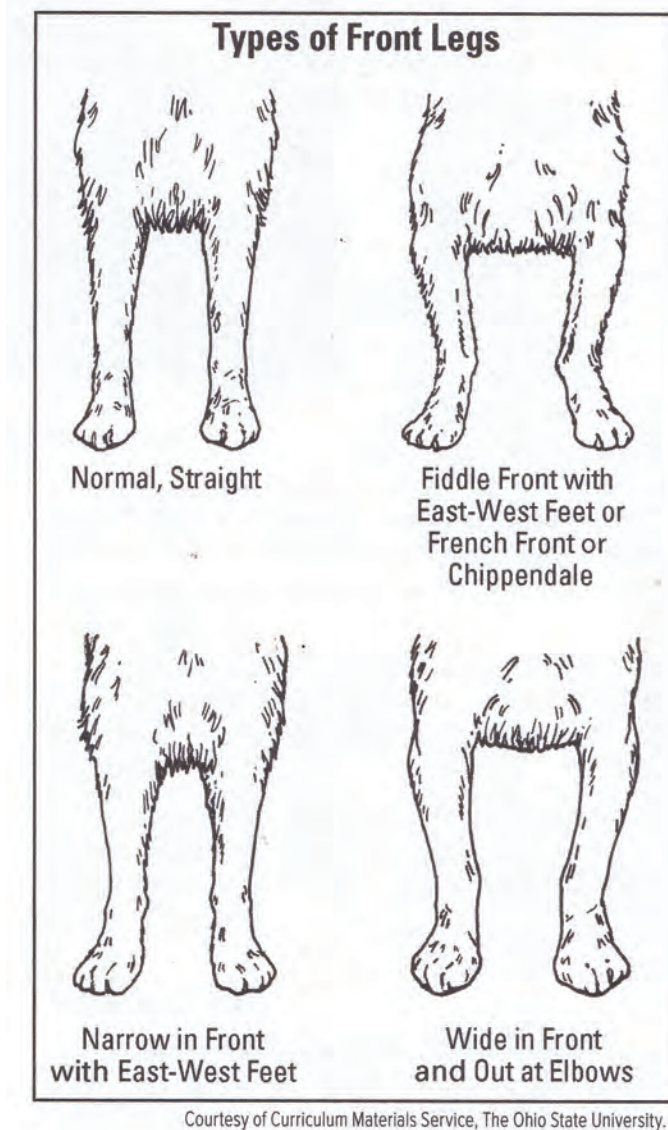
Forequarters



Courtesy of Curriculum Materials Service, The Ohio State University.

The dog's forequarters are the combined front assembly starting at the shoulder and then moving down the front leg to the upper arm, lower arm, pastern, ending at the forefoot. Forequarters are designed to carry more than half the dog's weight and to help in forward motion and movement. Unlike the hindquarters, the forequarters are attached to the body by muscle. The hind quarters are attached directly with a ball and socket joint. Forequarter angulation is the angle formed by the shoulder blade meeting the upper arm. Forequarters are further defined as **straight front**, **down in pastern** or **knuckled over**.

Front legs



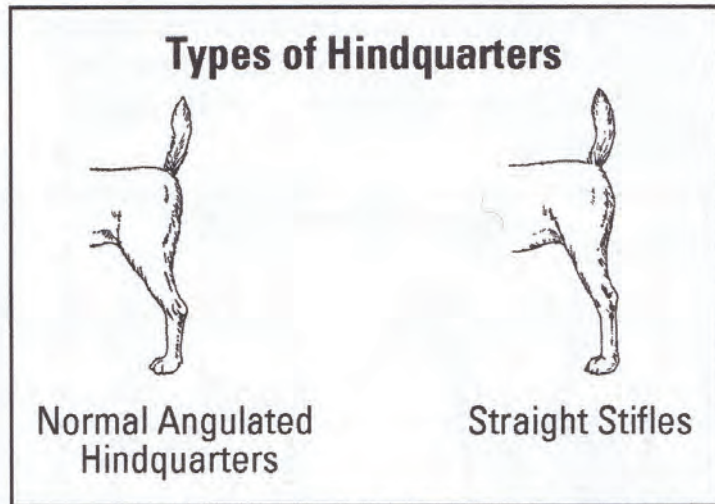
In a dog with a **normal, straight front**, when viewed from head on, the forearms run perpendicular to the ground as well as parallel to each other.

In a **fiddle front** or **French front**, the forelegs are out at the elbows, the pasterns are close and the feet are turned out (east-west). It is also called a **Chippendale** front, named after the Chippendale chair. There is often excessive curvature in the lower arm.

A dog with a **narrow front** has forearms, elbows and pasterns closer to each other than desired when viewed from the front. A dog that is **wide in front** has forearms, elbows and pasterns wider apart than desired

Hindquarters

The dog's hindquarters are the rear assembly of the dog starting at the pelvic girdle, moving down the hind leg to the upper thigh, stifle joint, patella, lower thigh, hock joint, hock and rear foot. Hindquarter angulation is the angle formed by the upper thigh meeting the lower thigh. A dog with straight stifles has little angulation at the stifle joint.



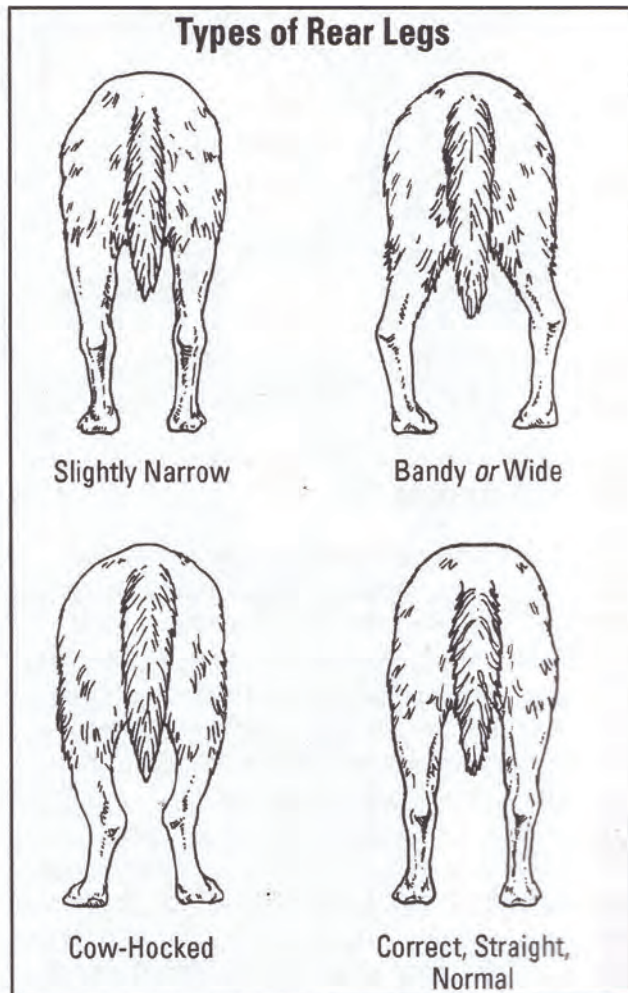
Courtesy of Curriculum Materials Service, The Ohio State University.

Rear Legs

A dog with bandy legs has legs that bend outward, like bowed legs. When viewed from behind, dogs with rear legs that are slightly narrow have rear legs that are set closer than normal. Cow-hocked dogs have hocks that turn in toward one another and rear feet that toe out.

Discuss It!

What are the advantages and disadvantages to each type of sets of rear legs? Is there a type of legs you would want to make sure your dog doesn't have? What type of legs does your dog have?



Courtesy of Curriculum Materials Service, The Ohio State University.

Experience and Do It!

Ask a local dog artist to come and speak to the group. They could be a painter or a sculptor. Ask the artist to talk about dog structure or conformation. Try drawing a dog body yourself.

What the Judge Looks For

Judging dogs is very similar to judging horses. In spite of their structural differences, horses and dogs share a lot in common and the principles applied to conformation and gait are applicable to both. Both vary in breed type according to their purpose, both come in various shapes and sizes and both exhibit gait characteristics that are influenced by these differences.

Examples of expressions used in both horse and dog conformation:

- Body balance, smooth or choppy action
- Steep or sloping shoulders
- Long or short coupled
- Well ribbed up
- Straight of hock or stifle, cow hocks, twisting or sickle hocks
- Weak or strong patterns
- Flipping, pounding, paddling, winging, overreaching

Experience It and then Look It Up!

If possible, attend a dog show or, watch a video of a dog show online. There may be words you will hear at a dog show that you don't understand. Listen closely and write them down. Ask either handlers, judges or program officials, or look up these phrases online. Share your findings with the group at the next meeting.

Showmanship

The purpose of showmanship is to demonstrate teamwork between the handler and the dog, showcasing your skills as a handler. Regardless of the breed of dog, you learn the skills required to present your dog and bring out its finest qualities. Your presentation is being judged, not the dog's conformation. You learn breed characteristics for the breed your dog represents. You learn the anatomy and physiology of the dog and to move as one with your dog.

Preparing for Showmanship

Your dog is judged on both its performance in the ring and its appearance (how well it is groomed, not on its conformation). In addition to obeying commands to gait, stand and turn, your dog must be alert, well groomed and allow strangers to touch it. Because your dog is being judged on condition, grooming and temperament, as well as the way it moves, showing in this class requires as much careful preparation as does showing in an obedience class. Conditioning a dog's coat, body and mind takes careful preparation. A dog that is not physically fit or is afraid does not present a positive image.

You are being judged as a team in showmanship Your dog is a tool to show off your skill as a handler. Your presentation of the dog is being judged, not the dog's conformation. There should be smooth coordination between you and your dog. Flamboyant gestures or jerky movements distract the judge's eye from seeing you and your dog at your best.



German Shepherd dogs are stacked differently than other breeds.

Image Credit: <https://www.germanshepherds.com>

Training your dog for showmanship consists of two parts – stacking and gaiting. Stacking means posing your dog. All breeds, with the exception of the German Shepherd, are posed basically the same way. There are variations on how the tail is posed, as well as some other minor differences. It is very helpful if your dog knows how to stand and stay before you begin training for showmanship. Gaiting is a method of moving your dog.

Stacking

The first and most important step in stacking your dog is to gain control of the dog's head. You must have control of the dog's head to have control of the dog. There are two different methods for achieving this.

One method is by making sure the show lead is snug just behind the ear, holding the lead taut and close to the neck. Hold the lead just tight enough to keep it in place, but not so tight as to choke the dog.

The other way is by holding the dog's lower jaw and cheek on the side closest to you without wrapping your fingers around the muzzle. It is helpful to practice in front of a mirror so that you can see if your fingers are interfering with the judge's view of your dog's muzzle. Always maintain close control of the dog's head any time it is being examined.



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Head control may be achieved by using the collar up behind the dog's ears.



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The head may also be controlled by holding the handler's side of the face and jaw.

Once you have control of the head, you need to position the front legs. Start by setting the leg on the judge's side first. Tilt your dog's head toward you to take the weight off that leg. Next, grasp the leg by the elbow with your thumb on the inside bend of the joint. Lift and place the leg so that you can form a line straight down from the shoulder through the pastern, perpendicular to the floor. Once that leg is set, push the head away from you and set the front leg closest to you. The feet should be shoulder width apart, parallel and facing forward.

To place the front legs, grasp the leg by the elbow.

When the dog's front legs are in position, set the rear legs. Remember to maintain control of the head with the hand that is closest to the head. To set the rear legs, grasp the point of the hock, lift slightly and pull or push the leg into position. There should be a straight line from the hock through the heel and perpendicular to the floor. Another way to do this on a larger dog is to reach under the dog, grasp the stifle and place the leg into position. After you set the judge's side, set the near side (the side closest to you). The back legs are usually set a little wider than the front.

The rear legs may be placed by grasping the stifle.

If your dog's topline tends to dip in the middle, presenting a swayback appearance, first check to make sure you do not have the hind legs stretched back too far. If that is not the cause of the problem, set the rear legs by reaching under the dog and positioning them by grasping the stifle. This usually results in your dog's back becoming level, thus removing that dip. If the back is arched, make sure the rear legs are not too far under your dog. If that is not the cause of the problem, set the rear legs without reaching under the dog, again positioning them by grasping the stifle or point of the hock. This usually results in your dog's back becoming level.



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Free stacking is a term used to describe walking your dog into a stack without using your hands to position the dog's feet. One method often used is to give your dog the command to stand and then use the lead to move its head and shift its weight, just as you did when doing hands-on stacking. Pull the lead gently forward or back and/or right or left, to cause different feet to move.

Once stacked, the dog's attention may be kept with the use of bait. This may be a small piece of food or a small toy that is no bigger than your fist. Before entering the ring, always ask the ring steward if the judge permits the use of bait. Then use the bait discreetly to keep the dogs attention focused on you. This gives an alert posture and is helpful in keeping the ears tilted forward in prick-eared breeds. Do not throw the bait to keep your dog's attention and do not leave pieces of food lying in the ring.

Small dogs are shown on a table. They are carefully lifted on the table and stacked the same way as a larger dog. The front feet are placed near the centre front edge of the table. It takes some practice to get your dog accustomed to this. If you don't have a grooming table to practice on, use a picnic table or other sturdy table, placing a rubber bathmat on it for traction. It is acceptable to carefully lift



a small breed by its chest and gently set it into position. Never drop a dog into position because that can be harmful to its feet and shoulders and can cause the table to move, which may scare the dog. Take great care when lifting your dog down from the table as many dogs get excited and try to jump.

Keep checking the placement of your dog's feet once it is stacked. Any movement out of position needs to be corrected quickly but smoothly. The lead should be gathered neatly in your hand and not draped over the dog. If you must kneel beside your dog after it is stacked, keep only one knee on the ground so that you can change positions smoothly and with ease. You must not obstruct the judge's view of your dog. You may need to move around the dog to give a clear view. Position yourself facing slightly toward the dog's head with the knee closest to the dog being down. The exception is if you are stacking a toy breed on the floor. You are allowed to put both knees on the ground. However, you must still be prepared to move around your dog smoothly as needed.

Do It!

Practice stacking your dog during the meeting. Continue practicing at home.

Gaiting

Another component of showmanship is moving your dog around. This is called gaiting. Dogs are moved around the ring at a specified gait, based on breed. Most breeds move at a controlled trot.

To begin, enter the ring with your dog at your left and be positioned so that you can gait around the ring in a counter-clockwise direction. Make sure to keep about 1 metre between you and the dog in front of you in the line. After stacking, the judge has all dogs gait around the ring. The first person in line should look back along the line and ask the other handlers if they are ready. The reason for asking this is consideration for others in the class. Once the group is ready, the first person steps off, with the others following. With a large, fast dog, the handler may be running. The handler with a small breed may be only moving at a walk. Resist the temptation to travel at the same speed as the dog in front of you. Move your dog at the speed required for a showy trot. If your dog is bouncing or galloping, you are moving too fast and need to slow down. If the dog in front of you is moving slower than your dog, pause, allowing some space, and then move off again with your dog at the proper speed. Check to see what side of the ring the judge is facing to watch the dog's gait. Hold your dog back a few seconds, out of the judge's view. Then, just as the dog in front of you is passing in front of the judge's line of vision, start moving your dog at its proper speed. Do not pass the dog in front of you.



When gaiting your dog, move it at a trot.

Image Credit: <http://www.usatoday.com>

Put the dog at your right side if the judge reverses the direction. This takes some practice since most dogs are taught to heel on the left and need to be taught to perform on the opposite side. Always remember to keep the dog between you and the judge. Head control is just as important while gaiting as it is while stacking. Make sure the collar is positioned up behind the dog's ears. The lead should be gathered neatly in your hand with no dangling ends flapping about. Your elbow should be bent at a 90-degree angle with your forearm parallel to the ground. Your thumb is up with the lead exiting the bottom of your fist. Your non-lead hand should be carried naturally at your side and used to main your balance as well as to lure and bait your dog when needed. Try to float when you move, making your gait as smooth as possible. This can be done by taking long strides. Taking short, choppy steps when running causes your dog to do the same and your movement is not as smooth. Keep one eye on the dog and one eye on the judge while also watching the ground to see where you are going. It is really important to be aware of your dog, the judge, the ring stands and rope and the ground at all times.

There is no need to make direct eye contact with the judge during the gaiting pattern. Too much head movement will distract from the picture of your dog gaiting around the ring. Just be aware of the judge's position in order to keep the dog lined up and between you and the judge. When you are moving directly away from the judge, it is not recommended that you look back over your shoulder because you will not be able to see where you are going. It also causes your body to twist, throwing off your stride. If you are gaiting up to the judge, stop about one metre in front of him or her. Stopping too close to the judge does not allow him or her to see the front conformation of your dog. When you stop, look at your dog's legs. Are they in the proper position? If not, try to get them into position by free stacking. You always want to make sure your dog is presented properly.

Individual Exam

After the dogs have gone around the ring as a group, the judge examines each dog individually. All the dogs in the ring should be stacked in one long line, nose to tail, with approximately one metre between them. This gives the judge room to move between dogs. Remember to maintain control of your dog's head any time the judge is examining it.

Experience It!

Take a video of your dog as it runs to see its gait. Watch the video and determine if there are any flaws? How can you work with your dog to improve your dog's gait?

You may be asked to show your dog's bite. Many breeds have a standard that lists the type(s) of acceptable bites.

To show your dog's bite, with the dog's mouth closed, place the lead in your right hand grasp the lower jaw from underneath. With your left hand over the dog's muzzle, carefully peel the lips away from the front teeth and turn the nose towards the judge. Make sure you don't inadvertently show the dog's bite to the floor. It is not necessary to show any more than the front teeth. However, some breed standards require the judge to check for missing teeth. In those breeds, you should get used to showing first the bite and then showing the teeth on the sides of the mouth. When judging, many judges prefer not to put their hands on a dog's mouth, thus avoiding transferring germs to the next dog in line. In those cases, the judge may ask the handler to show the teeth.

Get your dog used to being touched all over its body. The judge checks ears, teeth, nails, condition and grooming. As the judge examines your dog, watch carefully to make sure the judge hasn't changed your dog's appearance in any way. If the dog's feet have been moved or the fair disturbed, fix the change by replacing the foot or by running your hand or comb over the coat to put it back in place.

After the judge has finished examining your dog, you are asked to fait your dog in one of four patterns:

- Down and Back
- Triangle
- The "L" Pattern
- The "T" Pattern

There are two major goals to accomplish in gaiting:

1. Keep the dog between you and the judge (do not block the judge's view of your dog as you move along the pattern)
2. Practice gaiting, turning and switching hands with the lead (when necessary) until you can do it smoothly with no wasted motion

At a dog show, the judge has a limited amount of time to examine a large number of dogs. If the exhibitor wants to get the most out of their time with the judge, the dog is ready and waiting for the judge as soon as the previous dog has finished gaiting. As you move into the pattern, the next person in line should move into your place. If that person has a small dog, it should be placed on the table at this time. If you are the person after the small dog on the table, move up when that small dog has been lifted off of the table and is gaiting. The judge has the opportunity to see the dog being stacked on many occasions in the ring and can see the lifting procedure when the handler lifts the dog to the ground after being examined. It is neither necessary nor desirable to hold up the ring by making the judge wait.

When you are stacking your dog in the line, make sure you are not stacking your dog directly behind the grooming table. If you do, the judge is unable to see your dog clearly when he or she steps to the centre of the ring. Therefore, leave that space empty. It is allowable to back up so that you are not in the corner, with other handlers adjusting as needed.



The judge may walk between dogs at any time. Be sure you do not block the judge's view of your dog.

Sometimes you may need to step towards the front or rear of your dog. Other times you may need to move completely around your dog so the judge can see the dog's entire length. Do not step over your dog. It is helpful to practice stacking your dog from both sides so you can do it quickly and smoothly.

Look It Up!

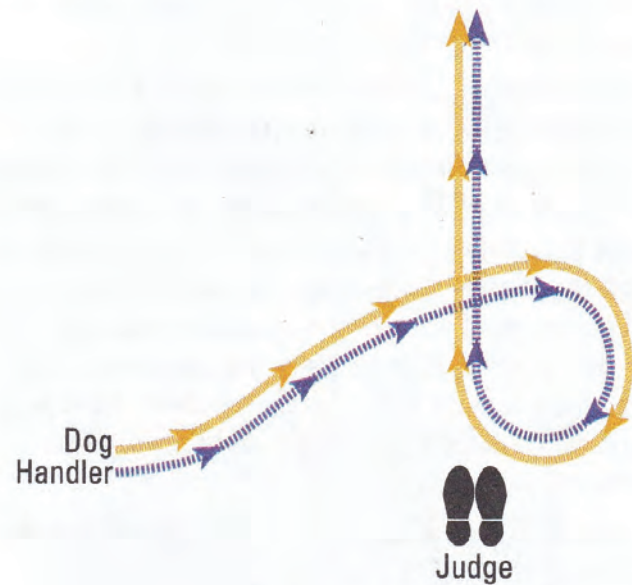
Find a dog showing website or a video online that focuses on dog showmanship. Read and watch videos to learn what it means to have a strong, even gait, proportional symmetry and other desirable traits in the show ring.

Courtesy Turn

If you have a large breed dog, every pattern should start with a courtesy turn except the Down and Back pattern with two dogs. If you do the courtesy turn properly, your large breed dog transitions smoothly to the correct speed in the smallest amount of space and will look better.

To perform the courtesy turn, step forward past the judge, with the dog at your left side. Then turn in a very tight circle with the dog on the outside. Remember to turn and don't stand still and just circle your dog. Make only one circle before you start off on the pattern. After completing the circle, move your dog away from the judge in a straight line, making sure it is lined up with the judge.

Courtesy Turn

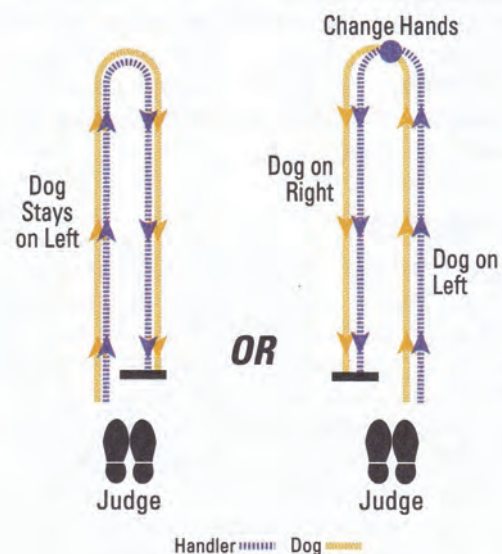


Toy breeds and other small breeds are not required to do a courtesy turn.

Down and Back Pattern (One Dog)

To perform the Down and Back pattern, complete a courtesy turn, if needed, and gait your dog away from the judge. When you reach the end of the ring, turn toward the right, just as you would do an about turn in obedience and return to the judge. The goal is to perform the turn smoothly and to make sure your dog is lined up with the judge when both leaving and returning. The Down and Back pattern may be performed on the diagonal. Pay attention to the directions the judge gives you.

Down and Back Pattern (One Dog)

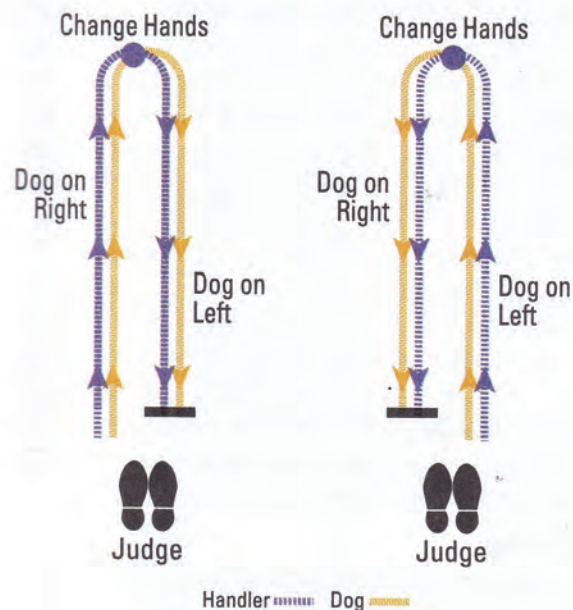


It's a good idea to practice the Down and Back by switching hands, therefore switching sides when you return. Go down with the dog on your left. Then switch the lead to your other hand and return with the dog on your right. This type of Down and Back could be used as a tiebreaker, with the judge requesting you to switch hands. Sometimes you may need to switch hands if you are at an outdoor trial and the ring conditions are such that your dog might step in a hole or puddle if you don't switch hands.

Down and Back Pattern (Two Dogs)

When doing the Down and Back with two dogs, the handlers step off at the same time, with the dogs in the centre and the handlers on the outside. When the end of the ring is reached, both handlers turn towards their dogs, switch hands and turn, stopping about one metre in front of the judge.

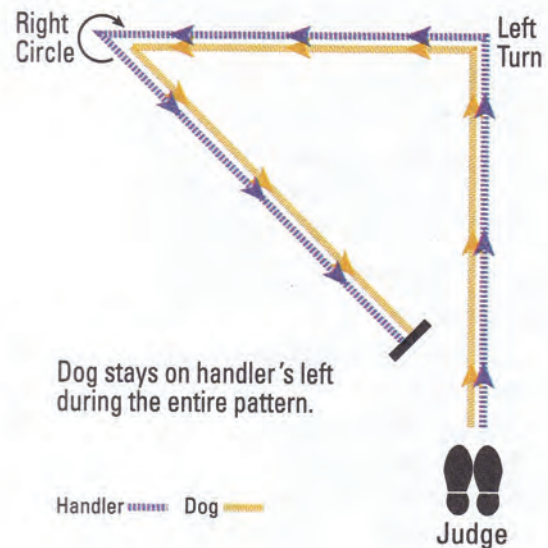
Down and Back Pattern (Two Dogs)



Triangle Pattern

The triangle pattern starts with the standard courtesy turn, if needed, and gait away from the judge. When you reach the end of the ring, make a left turn and continue to the corner. When you reach that corner, make a right circle and continue back to the judge, stopping about one metre from the judge. To do a right circle, spin in a clockwise direction around your right hand with the dog at your left side. When facing the correct direction, step off at your normal gaiting speed. This enables a large dog to make a very sharp turn in a very small space. If working with a very small toy breed, the right circle may be eliminated. There are no hand changes in this pattern.

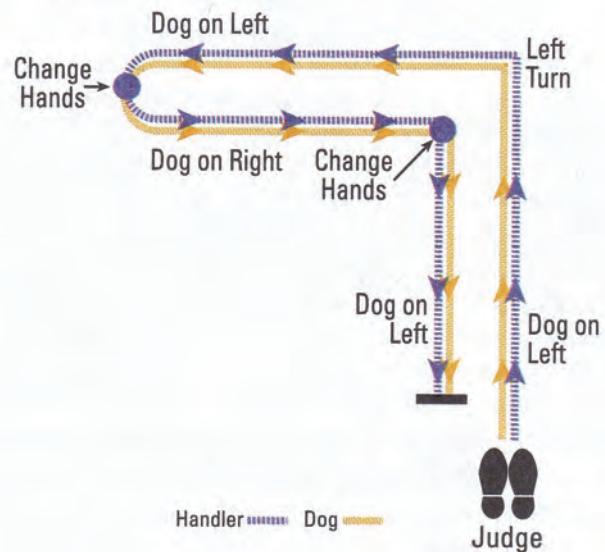
Triangle Pattern



The “L” Pattern

The “L” pattern starts the same way as the Triangle pattern. Make your courtesy turn, if needed, gait away from the judge to the far end of the ring and then make a left turn. When you reach that far corner, turn toward your dog and transfer the lead to your right hand. Continue turning until facing back along the way you came. Then gait back to the corner with your dog at your right side. As you approach the corner, let your dog continue past you and transfer the lead back to your left hand. Make a right turn and gait back to the judge. This puts the dog back at your left side for the final approach. The most difficult part of this exercise is at that farthest corner where you switch hands. It takes practice to make the switch and turn smoothly. You must also get your dog comfortable with gaiting at your right side.

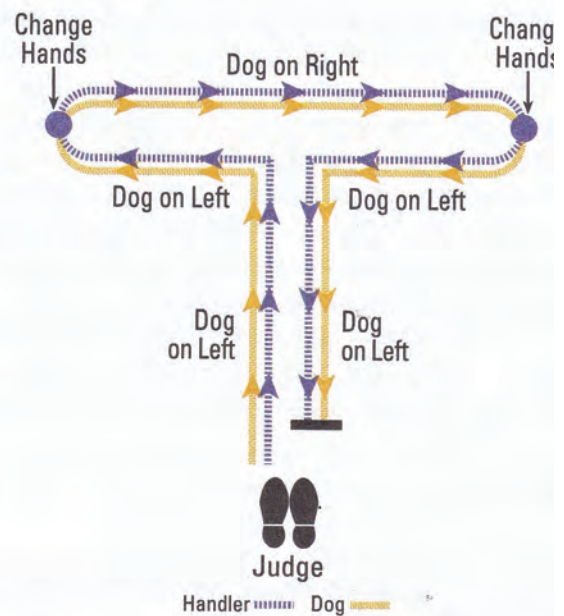
“L” Pattern



“T” Pattern

This pattern is a modified “L” pattern that is started midway down one side of the ring. After your courtesy turn, if needed start in the same manner as the basic “L” by going across the ring, away from the judge, to the far side of the ring. Make a left turn, go across to the end, change hands, return and continue on to the opposite side of the ring. When there, let the dog go past you, change hands and do an about turn and continue back to the centre. Make a left turn and continue back to the judge with the dog at your left side.

“T” Pattern



After Performing a Pattern

After you have finished your individual pattern, the judge sends you to the end of the line. Do an about turn, with the dog at your left at the outside of the turn and go back around the ring to the end of the line. Always present yourself as if the judge is still observing you. Continue to move up and restack your dog as each dog completes its pattern.

Breed Presentation

A handler should present the dog in the proper manner for the breed. If you are at a show where you are showing a mixed breed dog, you should identify the breed the dog most closely resembles and show the dog as if it were that breed.

During all phases of handling, the exhibitor's concentration should be on the dog and not on the judge, but not to the extent that the handler is unaware of the events in the ring. Judges evaluate the handler and dog with the following in mind:

1. Is the dog responsive to the handler? Do the dog and handler work as a team?
2. Does the dog appear posed or interested at all times?
3. Is the dog under control?
4. Is the dog moved correctly to the best of its ability?
5. Are the dog's main faults being minimized?
6. Do both the dog and handler appear relaxed?
7. Is the dog presented with an apparent minimum of effort?

Knowledge of Ring Procedure

Handlers must follow directions, use space wisely and execute the requested gaiting patterns. Handlers should appear "ring wise," be alert to the judging progression and be prepared for changes in the judging routine.

Appearance, Conduct and Sportsmanship

Excessive grooming of the dog in the ring to gain the judge's attention is inappropriate and should be faulted accordingly.

Handlers are expected to handle their dogs without distracting the dogs of other competitors. A handler who crowds or disturbs other dogs should be faulted. A principle of showmanship is to

afford the opportunity to learn the spirit of competition. Winning is important but is secondary to the development of sportsmanship in competition.

Handlers should be alert to the needs of their dogs, realizing the welfare of their dogs is the most important thing. They are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. Handlers who exhibit impatience or heavy-handedness with their dogs should be penalized.

Use of Bait

Using bait in showmanship classes is at the discretion of the judge. The steward should check with the judge prior to the start of classes and have the announcer inform the exhibitors if bait can be used.

Handler's Appearance

Always remember that you and your dog are a team. You should be neat, clean and well groomed. Wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and that complements your dog. Clothing shouldn't hinder or detract from the presentation of the dog. While dressing for showmanship is similar to dressing for obedience competitions, the outfit you wear for showmanship might be a little more formal. Review the Obedience section of this project for a list of acceptable clothing. In addition to that list, sports jackets may be worn but are not necessary, especially in hot weather. When wearing a tie, a tie tack should be used to hold the tie close to the shirt so it does not drape over the dog's back or get in the way.

Equipment

A dog is shown on a lead that is proportionate to its size. The collar may be nylon, very small chain link or a combination lead and collar, such as a martingale. Never use a chain lead. Nothing must be hanging from the collar. If you do a lot of obedience work with your dog, you may want to use a chain collar for obedience and a nylon slip collar for showmanship. Most of the working breeds are shown on a chair collar with a leather or nylon lead. Experiment with different types of equipment to find out what gives you the most control over your dog.



Left to right: martingale lead, fine chain collar and loop lead, loop lead, nylon collar, nylon slide lead. The lead should match the dog in colour and size.

CKC Junior Handler Program

The CKC Junior Handling program, for youth ages 4 to 17, offers Obedience and Conformation competitions just for children and youth. Youth can learn all about dogs - how to care for, groom, train and compete with their dog. Visit the Canadian Kennel Club website to learn more about this program.

Reach Out!

Ask a local dog show organizer to come and speak to the group. Prepare questions in advance to find out what the organizer does to host the show, how many people it takes, the cost of running the show and other details you want to know.

Reach Out!

Invite a dog show competitor to speak to the group about their experiences in the showing. Prepare questions ahead of time to find out what they did to prepare for the showing, what its like being in the ring, how many years they have been showing, why they chose the breed they are showing and any other details you want to know.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

Becoming A Dog Show Judge

What does it take to become a dog show judge? Find out how judges become a qualified judge by researching the training required (including any apprenticing that has to be completed) and the cost of the courses, if they are required. Create a short presentation on your findings. The presentation can be a poster, display, power point or video.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Showing your dog in showmanship competitions can be a lot of fun and worthwhile but it also can cost a lot of money. Research what it would cost to enter one showmanship competition that is two hours away from where you live. Remember to include the cost of getting to the competition, entry fees and grooming supplies as well as food and lodging for you and your dog if you have to stay overnight plus any other costs that you might incur. Share your findings with the group.

ACTIVITY #1

CONFORMATION CHALLENGE

DO	<p>Time: 30 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog magazines with pictures of a variety of breeds of dogs (that you are okay with being cut up)• Scissors• Bristol board & marker (could be prepared ahead of time)• Access to online resources <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members cut out pictures of as many different types of dogs as possible from the magazines• On a Bristol board, list the various conformation traits that appear in the section• One by one, discuss the breeds of dogs that members cut out of the magazine. Decide which type of conformation trait each dog in the picture has and if that is the proper trait for that breed. For some breeds, members may need to look up the breed online with the Canadian Kennel Club to determine the traits are acceptable for the breed standard
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to become comfortable and knowledgeable with identifying structural traits in dogs and determining which structural conformation traits are acceptable for various breeds.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important to be able to identify various structural traits in dogs?• How important do you think proper conformation for a breed is to the judge?• Was this activity easy or hard? Were there some pictures that your group didn't agree on when deciding which structural trait(s) that breed should have?• Were there certain traits that were hard to determine when looking at the pictures?

ACTIVITY #2

TABLE OR FLOOR

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog magazines with pictures of a variety of breeds of dogs (that you are okay with being cut up) (these could be the same pictures used in Activity #1)• Scissors• Bristol board <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members cut out pictures of as many different types of dogs as possible from the magazines• Have two pieces of Bristol board taped to the wall (or have two separate tables or areas if its not possible to use walls)• On one Bristol board put the title 'Table" and on the other title it "Floor"• Have members take turns choosing a picture of the dog from the magazine cut-outs and placing the picture on the Bristol board that best represents where the dog would be placed for an examination during a showmanship competition.• Repeat until all of the pictures have been placed.
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to determine which breeds of dogs would be best placed on a table for examination during competition and which dogs are best on the floor..</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important to know where to place your dog in a competition?• What would happen if someone incorrectly placed their dog during a competition?• Would you choose the table or the floor for your dog?• Was it easy to place all of the breeds of dogs or were there some breeds that the group questioned and had to discuss?

AGILITY TRAINING & PERFORMANCE EVENTS – INTRODUCTION TO DOG SPORTS & ACTIVITIES



SECTION 7A – AGILITY TRAINING & PERFORMANCE EVENTS – INTRODUCTION TO DOG SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Setting Objectives

A good pet is, indeed, a treasure, but if you want to do even more with your dog than just going for a walk or going to obedience class, you might discover your dog's talents extend beyond giving you a friendly greeting when you come home from work, or playing fetch games in the yard. Most breeds have a noble working heritage, and with the many organized dog activities now available, you can tap into that deep reservoir of canine instinct and skill. The sport (or sports) you select will depend on your interests, your schedule, your location, your energy and fitness level and your dog's mental and physical makeup.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To understand what dog agility is
- To be able to identify the various obstacles in a dog agility course
- To be able to create a dog agility course
- To discover the various performance sports available for you and your dog to participate in
- To learn what sports are appropriate for your breed of dog
- To discover what's available in your area for dog performance sports

Roll Calls

- Name one performance sport available for dogs.
- How can performance sports strengthen the bond you have with your dog?
- If you could try any performance sport with your dog, which one would you like to try?

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 2 hours 20 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes & Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Introduction to Agility and Performance Events Agility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Obstacles • CKC Agility Classes, Divisions and Levels • Titles • The Course • Scoring • Watching an Agility Trial Other Performance Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beagle Field Trials • Chase Ability Program • Draft Dog Tests • Earthdog Tests • Herding Trials • Lure Coursing Trials • Pointing Field Trials and Tests • Rally Obedience Trials • Retrieving Field Trials and Hunt Tests • Scent Detection • Scent Hurdling • Schutzhund Trials • Sled Dog Tests • Spaniel Field Trials and Hunt Tests • Sprinter • Tracking Test • Water Rescues • Working Certificate <u>Activities</u> Agility Obstacle Course	100 min + Activities
At Home Activity	Performance Sports in Your Area	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Introduction to Agility and Performance Events

Dogs that participate in performance events are athletes. Just like human athletes, dog athletes must be healthy and in good condition and must eat a high-quality diet. Running, climbing, swimming and jumping put a lot of stress on a dog's bones and joints. Dogs should not have hip or elbow dysplasia, osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) or any other congenital or hereditary bone or joint disease when participating in performance events. Dogs with arthritis should not participate unless approved by and under the supervision of your veterinarian.

All dogs should be fed a high-quality dog food. In addition to eating a premium dog food, dogs must have the right amount of fat in their diet to provide them with energy. Unlike human athletes who require large amounts of complex carbohydrates for energy, dogs need fats for energy. Dogs also need a high level of protein in their diet to reduce chances of injury. Overweight dogs can injure themselves more easily than dogs of optimal weight for their body frame. Be sure your dog is not overweight when beginning a performance event.

Dogs must also be in good condition to lessen their chances of injury and to perform their best. In events such as agility, where you and your dog work as a team, you must be in good shape as well. Begin conditioning your dog by taking it on long walks, playing fetch or jogging with your dog.

Agility

Agility is a fun and exciting sport in which you direct your dog through and over a series of obstacles while competing for the best time. A judge sets up a course that typically consists of tunnels, jumps, contact obstacles and other obstacles. The dog is timed as the handler and dog maneuver through the course in a specified order. As handlers and dogs become more proficient in agility, they compete at higher levels on harder courses. Dogs that typically get bored performing obedience exercises find agility exciting and stimulating. Agility requires concentrated teamwork, creating a closer bond between you and your dog.

Agility is open to all breeds, and since dogs are grouped according to size, with appropriate jump height and speed requirements for each size range, every dog has the same chance to excel, whether he's short and stocky or tall and lean.

Your dog should know basic obedience before learning agility. When you are ready to begin

agility, enroll in an agility class or learn from someone with experience in teaching agility. It is important that you and your dog learn correctly from the beginning so neither of you pick up bad habits that are hard to relearn or retrain. It is also important to learn how to safely execute each obstacle to keep your dog from becoming frightened of an obstacle or injured by falling from an obstacle.

Learning agility and completing various courses builds confidence in both you and your dog. Practicing and competing in agility is a good way for both of you to exercise and get into shape.

There are several organizations that offer agility and the rules vary from one organization to another. The most popular agility organizations in Canada include:

- CKC (Canadian Kennel Club)
- AAC (Agility Association of Canada)
- NADAC (North American Dog Agility Council)
- DOCNA (Dogs on Course in North America) (also known as Rockstar Dog Agiltiy)

Agility organizations have minimum age requirements for dogs to compete to prevent bone and joint injury to puppies.

Reach Out!

Invite someone to your meeting that organizes and/or competes in Dog Agility Competitions.

Obstacle Performance Requirements

Food and toys are not permitted in the course area and handlers are not permitted to use whistles or other training instruments or devices in the ring or within 10 feet (3.05m) of the course. However, a handler is permitted to talk, cheer, and encourage the dog during the course run. There is no restriction on the number of commands used. A handler may direct the dog using voice commands, hand signals or body movements either separately or in conjunction with each other.

A handler must not touch the dog or any obstacle, nor should a handler step over or go under any piece of equipment.

The handler may work the dog from any position and distance in all classes. However, the course layout (e.g., against a ring side, gate or wall) may restrict the handler's options in the Intermediate and Excellent classes.

A regular bar jump may be substituted for the panel jump in high winds. In case of poor weather conditions such as rain or strong wind at an outdoor trial, the Closed Tunnel may be replaced by an Open Tunnel measuring 10 or 15 feet (approximately 3 to 5 metres) maximum length.

At the trial-giving club's discretion, only handlers with dogs entered for a particular class may walk the course for that class. In the Novice class, it is recommended that handlers be given the opportunity to walk dogs once through the contact obstacles only prior to the start of the class, at a time determined by the Trial Committee. If this opportunity will be made available, it must be stated in the premium list.

All courses must have clearly designated start and finish lines and all obstacles/jumps must be clearly and sequentially numbered.

The Obstacles

A-Frame - the height of the 9' A-frame is set to 5'6" (1.68m) for dogs who jump 24" (61cm), 20" (50.8cm) and 16" (40.6cm) and 5 feet (1.52m) for dogs who jump 12" (30.5cm) 8" (20.3cm) or 4" (10.2cm).



The dog must ascend one panel and descend the other in a safe manner in the direction designated by the judge. The dog must touch the down-side contact zone with at least any part of one foot.

Dog Walk - the dog must ascend one of the ramps, cross the centre section, and descend the other ramp in the direction designated by the judge. The dog must touch the down side contact zone with at least any part of one foot.

Teeter - the dog must ascend the plank, cause it to pivot, and wait for the plank to touch the ground in a controlled manner before dismounting. The dog must touch each contact zone with at least any part of one foot.

Pause Table - the dog must remain on the table for the judge's cumulative count of 5 seconds. The count is not dependent on the dog's position and begins as soon as 4 paws are on the table.

Open Tunnel - the dog enters the end specified by the judge and exits the other end.



(a) An Open tunnel must be fully extended. If used, 3m (10 foot) tunnels must be straight.

(b) At the Novice Level, the tunnel must be straight or shaped as a loose L. "C" shaped tunnels are permitted at the Novice Level provided they do not present a discrimination

(c) At the Intermediate and Excellent Levels, tunnels may be any shape except an "S".

Closed Tunnel - the dog must enter the entrance section and exit through the chute. The closed tunnel must be placed far enough away from any obstacle or barrier to avoid the possibility of the dog coming into contact with such while in or leaving the chute.

Weave Poles - the dog must enter the Weave Poles by passing between # 1 and #2 from right to left, the first pole must pass the dog's left shoulder. The dog must then pass from left to right through poles #2 and #3 and continue this weaving sequence, following a smooth path, until passing between the last 2 poles. If the sequence is broken, the dog must restart the sequence from the beginning, at the first pole.

A dog may make three attempts at the weave poles but must carry on to the next obstacle without completing the weave poles if the dog was not successful in three attempts. An attempt is defined as dog entering the poles and doing at least 2 poles.

After 3 unsuccessful attempts the judge will instruct the handler to move to the next obstacle.

Bar Jumps - the dog must jump over the top bar in the direction indicated by the judge, without knocking down any part of the jump.

Panel Jump - the dog must jump over the top panel in the direction indicated by the judge, without knocking down any part of the jump.

Other Jumps - the dog must jump over the top section, in the direction indicated by the judge, without knocking down any bars.

Other Jumps - the dog must jump over the top section, in the direction indicated by the judge, without knocking down any bars.

Double Bar Jump - the dog must jump over the top bars, in the direction indicated by the judge, without knocking down any bar.



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club

Ascending Spread Jump - the dog must jump over all bars, from the lower to the higher heights without knocking down any part of the jump.

Triple Bar Jump - The dog must jump from the lower to the higher height without knocking down any bar.

Tire Jump - the jump height is measured from the ground to the bottom of the tire opening. The height of the tire jump is 4" (10.1 cm) lower (one jump height) than the jump height for the other jumps, except for the 4" (10.1 cm) jump height.



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Height of Bar Jump	Height of Tire Jump
4" (10.1cm)	4" (10.1cm)
8" (20.3cm)	4" (10.1cm)
12" (30.5cm)	8" (20.3cm)
16" (40.6cm)	12" (30.5cm)
20" (50.8cm)	16" (40.6cm)
24" (61cm)	20" (50.8cm)
26" (66cm) (if used)	24" (61cm)

a) The dog must jump through the tire opening, in a safe manner, in the direction specified by the judge.

(b) If the tire breaks apart while the dog is performing the obstacle, it is faulted as a knocked bar, (so 5 points in Steeplechase and F in Standard and Jumpers With Weaves).

One Bar Jump - a vertical jump with only one bar.

Watch It!

Find videos online of dog agility competitions and count how many obstacles you can see in the competition.

Experience It!

Attend a dog agility competition if there is one near you. Observe how the course is set up and how many obstacles are a part of the course. Does the course change depending on the class that is competing?

Discuss It!

Which of the obstacles do you think is the hardest one for dogs to compete? Does your answer change depending on the breed, age or size of the dog?

CKC Agility Classes, Divisions and Levels

The Official Classes are Standard, Jumpers With Weaves, Points and Distance, Steeplechase, International Challenge, and Jumps and Tunnels. All classes are divided into Divisions and in each Division, there are Jump Heights. Some Classes have Levels.

There are three types of divisions, Regular, Selected and Veterans.

There are four levels: Novice, Intermediate, Excellent and Master Excellent.

Titles

In order to be awarded and permitted to use any CKC agility title, a dog must be: registered with the CKC, or have an Event Registration Number (ERN), or a Performance Event Number (PEN) or a Canine Companion Number (CCN) or have a Miscellaneous Certification Number (MCN) if it belongs to a CKC listed breed.

The levels of Titles include:

- Agility Novice (AG.N.)
- Agility Intermediate (AG.I.)
- Agility Excellent (AG.X.)
- Agility Master Excellent (AG.M.X.)
- Agility Master Excellent (AG.M.X.) (multiples added e.g. AGMX2, 3, 4...)
- Agility Novice Jumper (AG.N.J.)
- Agility Intermediate Jumper (AG.I.J.)
- Agility Excellent Jumper (AG.X.J.)
- Agility Master Excellent Jumper (AG.M.X.J.)
- Agility Master Excellent Jumper (AG.M.X.J.) (multiples added e.g. AGMX2, 3, 4...)
- Agility Master Champion (AG.M.CH.)

The Course

Unlike obedience where the equipment and set up of the ring are almost the same every time, agility course designs are never the same. Prior to the show, the judge designs a course that meets the requirements of the sponsoring organization. Each organization has specific criteria as to the number of obstacles used, obstacle design, spacing requirements, course times and design. Course designs are kept confidential by the judge until the day of the show. Designs are posted and/or distributed to exhibitors so they can familiarize themselves with the course.

Check It Out!

Find out the latest information from the Canadian Kennel Club about agility rules and regulations by visiting their website and downloading the most up-to-date Agility Rules & Regulations document.

Scoring

Each organization has different requirements for qualifying. As the dog and handler perform the course, mistakes or faults are signaled by the judge and recorded by a scribe. Faults result in lost points or elimination depending on the level. Because there are a number of faults that a dog can incur, refer to the agility rulebook from the organization in which you are competing.

Watching an Agility Trial

An agility trial looks similar to a dog show and obedience trial. At the show site you will find handlers with their dogs in exercise pens or cages, a ring set-up, a secretary's tables, trophy table, scoring table and other necessary working areas. The big difference is the one or two large rings equipped with an assortment of agility equipment.

Prior to the first class, the course builders use the judge's course design to set up the course. The chief course builder measures distances and directs workers where to place equipment. Once the course is set, the judge performs an official measuring.

Agility Course Maps (sample)

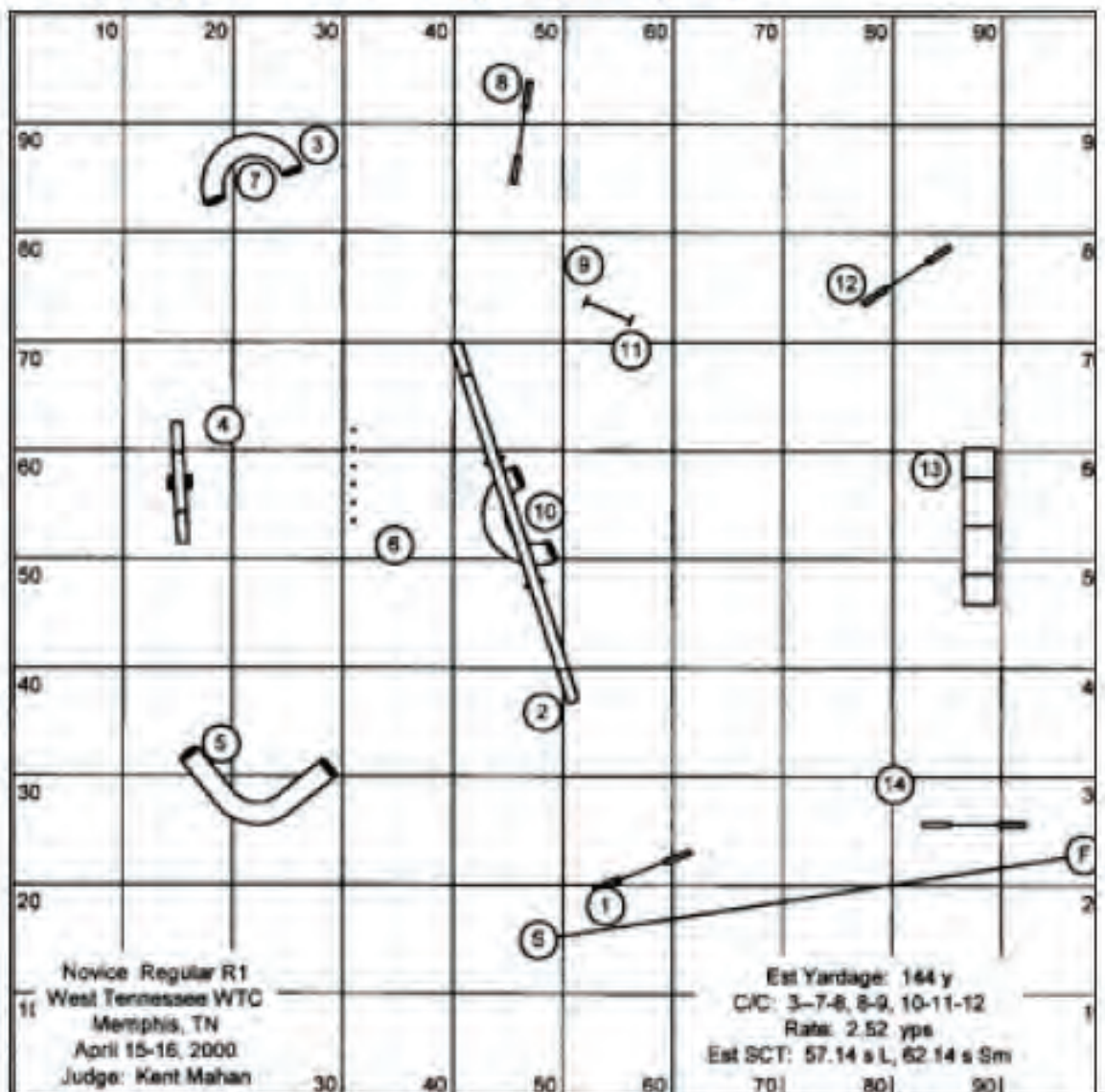


Image Credit: 4-H Alberta Canine Agility Project

While the course is being measured and set, the exhibitors are examining the posted or copied course design and memorizing the course from outside the ring. The handlers also begin planning their strategy and handling. Part of the challenge of running agility courses is the art of strategy and handling and the ability to think on your feet. There is no one way to run a course and handlers must make adjustments for their physical ability, the dog's ability and preferred style. Handlers running multiple dogs may run each dog different.

The next thing that usually occurs is a judge's briefing. All the exhibitors of the course level being run come into the ring while the judge explains rules and procedures, gives course times, table position and answers any questions. As handlers become more advanced, the judge's briefing is generally shorter.

Do It!

Draw your own dog agility obstacle course. Keep safe distances between obstacles in mind.

After the judge's briefing, it is time for course familiarization or a "walk through." This is the time for the handlers, without dogs, to walk the course and plan their strategy. Walking allows you to see the angles of jumps and proximity of obstacles and to decide how to handle the course. Often, things on a course map appear much differently on the course due to course terrain, size of the ring, walls, posts or other obstacles that change the way the dog perceives a course.

During this time, the judge also checks to make sure that the course and equipment meet the required specifications. The judge also checks for any potentially unsafe or inadequate equipment and reviews the course to ensure that everything is set properly.

Other Performance Events

Check It Out!

Find videos online for the various performance events listed here. If time permits, watch clips of each event to gain a better understanding of how the event works.

Other Performance Events

Barn Hunts

Barn hunts is an all-inclusive competition which measures the hunting instinct of a dog and the handling abilities of its handler in simulated farmyard/hay loft scenarios.



Originally, farmers relied on terrier and hound breeds to take on the task to eradicate vermin, however, with the introduction of the recreational barn hunt, every breed of dog is welcome to participate. The purpose of barn hunts is to provide a fun and competitive atmosphere for dog and handler which will test instinctive prey drive, physical ability, handler supervision and direction against other entrants. The objective is for your dog to sniff out a heavy, perforated tube containing a live rat hidden among straw bales or other such bedding or camouflage.

Barn hunt sporting events are a multi-tiered competition with varying degrees of difficulty. Any breed of dog, (including mixed breeds), that are older than 6 months of age and measure within the games height restrictions is welcome to participate. Barn hunts can take place indoors and outdoors and don't need to be limited to an agricultural environment.

Beagle Field Trials



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

At Beagle trials, hounds run in braces (pairs) or packs, pursuing rabbits or hares. They must use their keen noses to locate the game, then trail it enthusiastically, giving 'tongue' so their handlers know where they are and are able to follow. Similar events are also offered for Basset Hounds.

Look It Up!

Visit the CKC (Canadian Kennel Club website) to find out what the rules and regulations are for Beagle Field Trials.

Chase Ability Program



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

This exciting event, also called Caps & Sprinters and developed after the ever-popular Lure Coursing, allows dogs to uncover their natural prey drive through chasing a lure - all while having lots of fun. The Chase Ability Program also provides purebreds and mixed-breeds with the opportunity to compete and earn multiple titles and certificates in a field event that all dogs are capable of performing.

Two types of courses are available: one for dogs shorter than 12 inches at the withers or brachycephalic dogs and another course for the remainder of the dogs entered. The Chase Ability Program is a pass/fail event. How does a Dog earn a Pass? A dog must run alone, chasing the lure and complete the course with enthusiasm and without interruption

Dock Jumping

The sport of dock jumping (sometimes called dock diving) is a relatively new sport with the first recorded events in Canada in 1997. A typical event features a dog and handler team on top of a 10.5 metre (36 foot) dock, adjacent to a 13.7 metre (45 foot) long pool filled with water. Healthy dogs of any size, shape, age and breed are more than welcome to partake and no experience is necessary. Dogs fly through the air and land in the water with a splash after which, the longest jumper is deemed the winner.



Image Credit: www.pinterest.com

Draft Dog Tests



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Originally developed to show off the traditional carting and weight-pulling skills of the heavier breeds such as Newfoundlands and Bernese Mountain Dogs, draft-dog competitions are now open to all breeds. The test begins with some basic obedience exercises, then the dog is harnessed and hitched to a cart or wagon and taken by its handler through a series of manoeuvres designed to demonstrate his usefulness in hauling a wheeled vehicle safely and quietly over smooth terrain. The dog is also asked to pull a freight load over rougher terrain, which includes natural obstacles, and at the advanced level, backpacking exercises are added to the mix of required skills.

Earthdog Tests



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Traditionally, Earthdogs went into the ground after rats and other small rodents, as well as larger game such as fox or badger, and either faced out their prey or chased them from their lairs. Earthdog tests, open to Dachshunds and small terriers, offer simulated conditions that test the earthdog's keenness and ability to do its job. Trenches are dug and lined with wood, and the quarry, usually a caged rat, is placed within this artificial earth, where it can be seen and smelled but not touched or harmed in any way. The dog must find its quarry and 'work' it, by barking, digging or scratching. Age-old instincts come to the fore, and dogs typically take to the sport with zeal and tenacity.

Flyball

Flyball races match two teams of four dogs each, racing side-by-side over a 15.5 metre (51 foot) long course. Each dog must run in relay fashion down the jumps, trigger a flyball box, releasing the ball, retrieve the ball, and return over the jumps. The next dog is released to run the course but can't cross the start/finish line until the previous dog has returned over all 4 jumps and reached the start/finish line. The first team to have all 4 dogs finish the course without error wins the heat.



Image Credit: <https://www.buckhamfair.co.uk>

Experience It!

Groups, such as the Super Dogs, usually have a Flyball competition as part of their show. If possible, attend a Super Dogs show or something similar.

Freestyle

Canine Freestyle is a performance activity for dog and human teams. Teams train movement behaviours technically, creatively and artistically. The objective is to illustrate the delight of working as a team and to participate with others in a friendly environment. Each unique presentation offers a perception of the team's training journey artistically and creatively.

Teams train as one to move forward, sideward, backward and around, to work on the right and/or left sides relative to three reference positions. Movements may be expressed in stillness (appearing as if the movement has been caught between coming and going). Movements may also move, in and through the presentation space, rhythmically focused on the dog or the team. Training, artistically and creatively, develops teams as finely tuned instruments, capable of expressing any safe trainable movement effortlessly with a smooth and easy flow focusing movement rhythmically with a BPM (beats per minute) relationship to the musical choice.

Freestyle Photos



Image Credit: www.courteouscanine.com.



Image Credit: www.paws2dance.com

Herding Trials

Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Dogs have been used for centuries to gather and herd all kinds of livestock – the large number and variety of herding and droving breeds in existence today attest to the importance of their work. Herding tests and trials, open to all breeds, require dogs to move a group of animals (ducks, sheep or cattle are the livestock commonly used) through a designated course of gates and into a pen, guided by the commands of their handlers. The dogs must be forceful enough to gain the respect of the stock and maintain control, yet quiet enough not to panic or scatter the herd.

Discuss It!

Is Freestyle something you think you and your dog could learn? What steps would you take to teach your dog the moves for Freestyle?



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club

Lure Coursing Trails



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Sighthounds were developed to chase and kill live game such as hare, deer or wolves, so if you appreciate speed, you will want to check out the sport of lure coursing. These swift-running hounds are released individually, in pairs or in trios, to chase an artificial lure around a twisting course, and are judged on their speed, agility, enthusiasm, endurance and follow.

Pointing Field Trials and Tests



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club

Pointing trials and tests are open to all the pointing breeds, including Brittany Spaniels. The working pointer energetically quarters the field to find game, but instead of flushing it into the air as a spaniel would do, the dog freezes in position to ‘point’ its location, holds its place while the bird is flushed and shot, then on command retrieves the downed bird.

Rally Obedience (Rally O) Trials

Rally Obedience (Rally O) is intended to promote positive relationships between dogs and owners based on trust and respect. Rally O encourages participation of all dogs purebred or mixed breed, pets or titled champions as well as physically-challenged dogs and/or handlers.



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

The concept of a single continuous performance, uninterrupted by orders from the judge, demands a sustained communication between the dog and handler. The handler may talk and give hand and body signals to his or her dog throughout the performance. This provides a mental stimulus for the handler as the course outlines are different at each trial.

Rally O is a program for dogs and their owners. Dog and handler use directional signs to go through a numbered course within an allotted time. Rally O goes beyond basic heeling by interspersing over 40 obedience movements with the sits, turns and paces of traditional heeling. It also requires a brisk pace, positive attitude and happy demeanor.

Rally O is a venue for those who desire an activity that is fun and games. It is not simple or easy, but challenges handlers and dogs in a partnership that improves heeling and teamwork. The ability to work as a team during a Rally O performance, the handler's ability to maintain the dog's attention and attitude at a high level are all challenges. This, along with variability incorporated into course designs and formats, creates a fast-moving continuous performance.

Rally O is designed so that dogs at all levels of training may participate. A beginner's course may include heel, sits, turns, pace changes, sit-stay and elements of recall. As the dogs gain skill, more difficult elements are incorporated into the courses which will improve you and your dog's performance levels and confidence. Rally O is offered by CARO (Canadian Association of Rally Obedience), CKC (Canadian Kennel Club), AKC (American Kennel Club), Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA), C-WAGS, World Cynosport and UKC (United Kennel Club) trials.

Dogs in rally obedience events should demonstrate willingness and enjoyment. Handlers can use praise, encouragement, and petting throughout a rally course.

Retrieving Field Trials and Hunt Tests



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Retrievers, Standard Poodles and Irish Water Spaniels may compete in retriever field trials, while Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Barbets and Standard Poodles may enter hunt and working certificate tests. Dogs are tested on both their ability to mark the location of downed birds and on their retrieving skill, over land or in the water. At the higher levels, dogs are required to carry out very sophisticated retrieving tests, including marking multiple birds and finding unmarked birds (blind retrieves).

Scent Detection



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club

A fun event open to all dogs to enjoy the challenge of locating a scent and communicating with their handler that the scent has been located. The trial is done in a variety of environments allowing a dog to use their strongest natural sense.

There are five classes, starting with the entry-level “instinct” class, and in ascending order the novice, open, excellent, and master classes. Each class tests the dog’s ability at a new, more challenging level, encouraging greater perseverance and focus on fine-tuning of olfactory senses. The scent source may be within a container - the only option for the instinct level - interior of a building, or exterior - the great outdoors!

Dogs will be divided into height divisions within the classes based on the height indicated on the entry form. Titles are awarded upon the dog acquiring the required number of qualifying scores within the class entered.

Scent Hurdling

Scent hurdling is partly about obedience, and partly about speed. It's similar to flyball in that it's a four-dog team event - a relay race up and back over a line of small hurdles. However, the object of each dog's attention at the end of the course is not a spring-loaded box that spits out tennis balls, but a board on which are placed four identical dumbbells, one of which carries his handler's scent. The dog must sniff out the right dumbbell, pick it up, and bring it back over the jumps. Good scent-hurdle dogs are both fast and accurate, and as enthusiastic about their game as flyball specialists are about theirs.

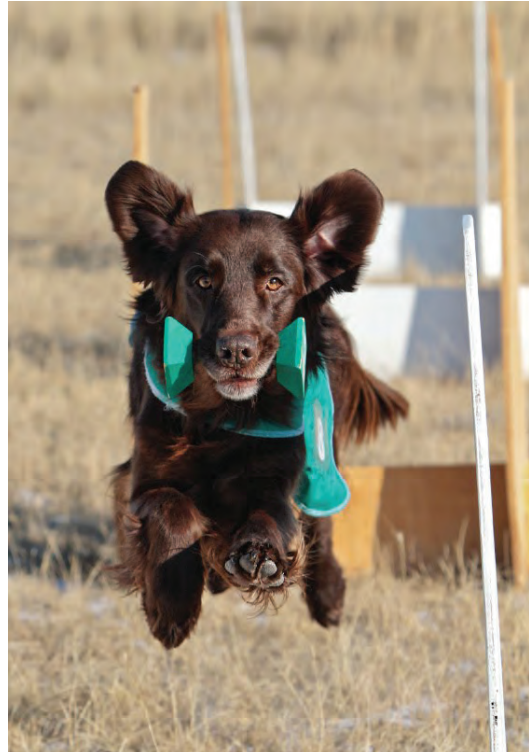


Image Credit: <http://blazingstar-news.blogspot.com/2011/02/scent-hurdle-racing-update.html>

Schutzhund Trials

Schutzhund is a German word meaning “protection dog.” It refers to a sport that focuses on developing and evaluating those traits in dogs that make them more useful and happier companions to their owners. Schutzhund work concentrates on three parts. This event is a three-tiered sport involving obedience, tracking and protection work. It began in Germany as a working and temperament test for German Shepherd Dogs, but expanded to include the many other breeds typically used as protection dogs, and is now (in North America at least) open to all breeds capable of performing the exercises, which are demanding, especially at the advanced levels. All three parts of the test are conducted in a large, open field rather than in a small ring or arena. Dogs must demonstrate steadiness when a gun is fired. The protection work may seem to be the most exciting part of the sport but tracking and obedience are also essential aspects of an integrated whole competition.



Image Credit: Windsor Schutzhund Training Club

Discuss It!

Do you think Schutzhund training creates a dangerous dog or does it result in a dog that is confident, stable, and controllable with excellent obedience?

Sled Dog Tests

Who says that hockey is Canada's only national sport? You don't have to move indoors in the winter to enjoy working with your dog. You can hitch your dog to a sled and take to the snow. What's more, you don't need a large team – one or two dogs are enough – and while the Northern breeds, such as Siberian Huskies or Alaskan Malamutes, are the traditional mainstays of the sport, dogs of many breeds can and do excel as sled dogs. Many people are content to enjoy recreational sledding but racing at both sprint and long distances is fun and extremely popular, and sled-dog titles can be earned by building up mileage in accredited races.



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Spaniel Field Trial and Hunt Tests

The role of the flushing spaniel is to locate game, flush it out for the hunter to shoot, mark the location where the bird falls and then retrieve the bird to hand. Spaniel tests and trials require the dog to carry out these tasks with enthusiasm and skill, stand steady as the shot is fired and retrieve from land or water.



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Sprinter



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

Sprinter is a fun event open to all dogs to enjoy the challenge of running a 100-meter dash. All dogs entered will receive a handicap score based on their height, and their time to finish will be converted to kilometres per hour. Titles are awarded upon the dog accumulating a given number of points.

Tracking Tests



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club

The awesome power of the dog's sense of smell is almost beyond belief. Because we can never completely understand how canine scenting processes work, we don't 'teach' dogs how to track – we provide some guidance, and a framework in which they are able to learn what is expected, and they go on to show us how incredible their noses really are. At a tracking test, the dog follows an unmarked track laid down some time before by a stranger. The dog must follow it to find one or more articles dropped along the way and at the end. It wears a harness and is attached to its handler by a long line, but the handler is pretty much just along for the ride. The dog is the one that knows where he's going.

Trick Dog

With a multitude of tricks to choose from, you're sure to find ones that are right for you and your dog! The Trick Dog title is a team title, and the same dog/handler team must perform the tricks. Whether it be a sit, or a roll over, or fetch a soda from the fridge... a Trick is just another word for a cued behavior.



Image Credit: <https://www.akc.org>

Teaching tricks establishes a pattern of learning, teaches skills and focus, is a positive method of training and promotes a bond between canine and human. Dog trainers tend to train the hardest when working toward a goal. It keeps them motivated, and focused. The process of teaching dog tricks puts into play the foundational concepts and techniques of animal training: operant conditioning, consistency, timing and motivation. In teaching tricks, you get to practice these techniques and immediately see the results. Each new trick presents a unique challenge that you can address with creativity and the insight of your previous experiences.

Water Rescues

It has been recognized for many years that the Newfoundland Dog possesses a unique instinct and talent for saving lives and the remarkable achievements of this gentle giant have been well documented. The breed was developed to work in the water, and the water-rescue test was devised to promote and preserve these rescue skills. At present, only Newfoundlands may compete. Junior and advanced-level tests are offered, and the various required exercises include retrieving from shore and from a boat, towing a boat and retrieving underwater.



Image Credit: American Kennel Club www.akc.org

Working Certificate



Image Credit: Canadian Kennel Club <https://www.ckc.ca>

The primary objective of the Working Certificate Tests are to encourage the development and use of those natural abilities for which retrievers were originally bred. The tests provide a means to help encourage retriever owners to develop their dogs' natural abilities, and to have proficient hunting partners.

The tests are non-competitive and those dogs that pass the tests to the satisfaction of the judges will be recorded as having basic working ability.

Reach Out!

Invite someone to your meeting that competes in any of the performance events listed in this meeting. Before they arrive, prepare a list of questions you want to know about the event(s) they participate in.

Research It!

Find other performance events for you and your dog that aren't listed here. Research details such as what type of dog the event is for, what equipment is needed and any costs associated with the event.

AT HOME ACTIVITY

There are many performance sports for you and your dog to participate in. Find out if there are any groups in your area that train for these sports. Make a list of what is available in your area, who the contact person is and what the cost is to participate.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

Performance Sports are a lot of fun for you and your dog but can also be costly. Choose three different performance sports and find out if there is a cost to enter these competitions, both locally and at a provincial and/or national level. Find out what other requirements there are for entering. Are these sports that you would consider for you and your dog? Be prepared to share with the group your findings for at least one of the performance sports. If possible, demonstrate to the group with your dog how the sport is performed.

DIGGING DEEPER II

For senior members

There are many performance sports available for you and your dog to participate in and each year new sports are introduced. Find a sport that isn't listed in this section that might appeal to you and your dog. Research the details of how the sport is performed, what requirements there are for a handler and dog to participate, what equipment is needed, any costs associated with the sport and any other details that someone would need to know in order to participate in the sport. Be prepared to share this new performance sport with the group. If possible, demonstrate the sport with you and your dog or find a video online to show the group.

ACTIVITY #1

AGILITY OBSTACLE COURSE

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper, pen or pencil• Pylons• Various obstacles (to simulate obstacles discussed in this section)• Stopwatch (optional) <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have members either work individually, in pairs, or as a group to design an agility obstacle course. Tell them to keep in mind the breed(s) of dog(s) they are designing the course for.• Have members gather the supplies needed to create the course and then set-up the course.• If possible, have members try the course out with their dog.• If members are mastering the course with their dog, try timing each participant as they work their way through the course.
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to be creative in designing their own version of an obstacle course.</p> <p>To allow members to experience what its like to participate in a dog agility competition.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was it easy or hard to design an agility obstacle course? Did the type of dog you were designing it for make it easier or harder to design?• Were you able to find all of the items you needed to make the obstacles? Is there something you wish you could purchase to help create some of the obstacles?• What changes would you make to the design the next time you are to do this activity?• Did you find the agility obstacle course easy or hard to complete? What could you do differently the next time?

CAREERS FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG



SECTION 8A – CAREERS FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG

Setting Objectives

For you, careers in the canine industry are available worldwide. Many of the careers involve specialized trained people and include a variety of different jobs. Many 'dogs with jobs' provide a variety of services to humans. This section will explore careers for humans working with dogs as well as careers for dogs that have the right combination of being clever, ambitious, have a willingness to learn and the right personality for the job.

Suggested Lesson Outcomes

- To create a realization of the careers available working with dogs
- To gain some insight into preparing for a career
- To be able to identify various types of jobs available for dogs
- To create an understanding of the impact a dog can have on someone's life
- To learn about some of the organizations that train dogs
- To identify which breeds are more suited for certain jobs available for dogs

Roll Calls

- Name one job a dog could have.
- Have you ever watched a service dog at work? What type of service dog were they?
- Name one career in which someone would be working directly with dogs.

Sample Meeting Agenda Time: 1 hour 50 minutes plus activities

Welcome, Call to Order & Pledge		10 min
Roll Call		5 min
Parliamentary Procedure	Minutes & Business	10 min
Topic Information, Discussion & Activities	<u>Topic Information</u> Careers Preparing for a Career Working Dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance Dogs • Autism Assistance Dog Guides • Diabetic Alert Dog Guides • Support Dog Guides • Therapy Dogs • Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Service Dog Program for Canadian Veterans and First Responders • Police Dogs • Search and Rescue Dogs • Military Dogs • Herding Dogs • Detection Dogs <u>Activities</u> Dog Industry Careers Charades Guide Dog Obstacle Course	70 min + Activites
At Home Activity	Dog Resume	5 min
Wrap up, Adjournment & Social Time		10 min

TOPIC INFORMATION

Careers

If you are a dog lover, then having a career involving dogs can be a dream come true. Every job has its pros and cons and dog-related jobs are no exception. However, a dog-related job can be rewarding and fun if you choose the one that's right for you. Careers in the dog industry are available worldwide. Many of the careers require specialized training.

There are many dog-related jobs. Some include:

- Animal-assisted activities therapy
- Animal behaviourist
- Animal communicator
- Animal control or humane society officer
- Animal lawyer
- Animal shelter staff or director
- Artist
- Dog breed or kennel club representative
- Dog fashion designer
- Dog magazine editor or writer
- Dog sitter
- Dog walker
- Dog yoga instructor
- Doggie daycare owner or employee
- Doggie spa owner
- Groomer
- Nutritionist
- Pet equipment, accessories and supply industry
- Pet food sales, food research and development
- Pet hotels or boarding facilities
- Pet product tester
- Pet therapist
- Pharmaceutical sales
- Photographer
- Police or military canine units
- Professional dog handler
- Professional canine judge
- Search and rescue units

- Trainer
- Veterinarian
- Veterinary assistant or technician
- Veterinary science and research

Reach Out!

Invite someone with a career related to the dog industry and have them speak about their career and why they chose their career.

Preparing for a Career

Proper training and preparation are just as important when entering the dog industry as they are in other areas. Graduation from high school is considered a basic requirement. It helps to take high school courses that prepare you for higher education. Talk with your high school guidance counselor about the schooling or training you will need for the career you are looking at. A good way to learn about any career is to shadow a professional.



Shadowing a professional is a good way to find out about a career and if you like it.

Image Credit: <https://www.istockphoto.com>

Working Dogs

Dogs provide many services to humans. Assistance dogs are trained to help people with disabilities and include guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs. Dogs are used in animal-assisted activities to provide emotional, education or recreational human-animal interaction. Dogs used in animal-assisted therapy help promote a person's cognitive, emotional or physical functioning. Dogs are used in police work, in search and rescue and as guard dogs, herding dogs and military dogs. They are used in entertainment, photography and public relations. If a dog that wants to work is not kept busy, he may find his own "work" to do, such as digging holes in the yard, destroying furniture and getting into other kinds of trouble.

Experience It!

Do you know of someone in your community that has a working dog? Invite them to your meeting to discuss what their dog does and how they and their dog work together.

To a working dog, work is play. A search and rescue dog, for example associates finding a missing person with getting a reward, such as a treat, toy or play time. The dog doesn't realize that it may have saved someone's life. All the dog knows is that it gets a reward for performing it's "work." The dog is trained on a play and reward system.

Assistance Dogs

As assistance dog is a modern term used to describe dogs that provide a service to their human partners. Many people are familiar with guide dogs which is a dog that has been formally trained to assist people who are blind. In addition to providing a service, assistance dogs greatly enhance their partners' lives with a new sense of freedom and independence. These dogs provide companionship while reducing stress and the feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The Lions Foundation of Canada trains Dog Guides to assist Canadians with a wide range of disabilities. With seven programs in place, Canadians with disabilities are offered the opportunity to find greater independence, mobility and safety through the help of a Dog Guide.



Image Credit: Lions Foundation of Canada Guide Dogs <https://www.dogguides.com>

Depending on the program, Dog Guides are trained to perform a set of basic skills that are useful to all handlers. However, some of their training is also tailored to meet the specific needs of their future handler. In the final stage of training, the client and Dog Guide train and live together at the Oakville, Ontario facility for two to four weeks. This helps to ensure that the new working team develops a bond and prepares them for their next step - returning home.

The seven programs in place offered by the Lions Foundation of Canada are:

- **Canine Vision** for people who are blind or visually impaired
- **Hearing** for people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- **Autism Assistance** for children who have autism spectrum disorder
- **Service** for people who have a physical or medical disability
- **Seizure Response** for people who have epilepsy
- **Diabetic Alert** for people who have diabetes with hypoglycemic unawareness
- **Support** for professional agencies assisting individuals in traumatic situations

Within the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program, the Canine Vision Canada program is the longest standing program. Since 1985, Canine Vision Dog Guides have been enriching the lives of Canadians who are at least 12 years old and are blind or visually impaired. These Dog Guides are trained to assist their handlers in navigating obstacles typically found on most daily routes, including curbs, steps and crowds. With the knowledge that they are capable of traveling freely and safely, handlers feel self assured every time they leave their homes with their Dog Guide. The confidence that they gain allows them to pursue education, careers and activities in their communities.

Hearing Dog Guides assist individuals who are 10 years of age or older and who are deaf or hard of hearing to detect sounds they are unable to hear on their own. They have been taught to distinguish sounds, make physical contact with their handlers and lead them to whatever is making the noise; be it someone at the door, an alarm clock, or a ringing telephone. Since 1988 graduates of the Hearing program have gained an increased sense of security knowing that they will always have a link to the world of sound through their Dog Guide. This allows handlers to be more at ease in their home environment.

Before becoming its own distinct program in 2001, Dog Guides for people with epilepsy were trained under the Service (formerly Special Skills) program. Since becoming a separate program, these Dog Guides have gained greater recognition for the incredible service they provide to their handlers. Trained to assist individuals 10 years of age or older with epilepsy, Seizure Response Dog Guides are capable of activating an alert system or barking for help in the event of a seizure.

Their ability to respond and react quickly makes them a trustworthy companion and provides their handlers with the confidence to live independently. Seizure Response Dog Guides allow clients a greater feeling of safety and independence.

Since the introduction of the Service (formerly known as Special Skills) program in 1991, people 10 years of age or older with physical or medical disabilities have discovered a renewed sense of safety and independence through the use of one of these Dog Guides. On a daily basis, Service Dog Guides help their handlers retrieve objects, open and close appliances, and open and close doors. These Dog Guides are also trained to bark or activate an alert system when help is needed. Their ability to perform such a wide range of tasks puts Service Dog Guides in high demand and has proven them to be a vital aid for many individuals.



Image Credit: Lions Foundation of Canada Guide Dogs <https://www.dogguides.com>

Autism Assistance Dog Guides help children between 3 and 12 who are on the autism spectrum. These Dog Guides provide safety, companionship, and unconditional love. They offer a calming relief for children in high anxiety situations and reduce the stress commonly experienced in public places.

Diabetic Alert Dog Guides assist people aged 10 or older who are insulin dependant with hypoglycemic unawareness. They are trained to detect sudden drops in their handler's blood sugar through scent and alert them so that they can ingest something sweet. They can go get help within the home or activate an alert system if needed. Their ability to detect and react to hypoglycemic episodes helps their handler to avoid loss of consciousness and subsequent life-threatening effects. Ultimately, these specially trained Dog Guides provide increased safety, security and independence.

Support Dog Guides are for use by professional agencies with individuals in traumatic situations. These Dog Guides are trained to provide comfort to victims or witnesses of a crime or sudden tragedy. Support Dog Guides will provide on scene support when requested to those most vulnerable in our community, as well as provide added support to persons providing difficult disclosure to police for crimes such as child abuse, sexual assault, etc.



Image Credit: <http://www.cnib.ca>

The **Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)** also has a guide dog program for the blind. People with sight loss often say having a guide dog is a transformational experience. Being part of a guide dog team provides mobility, safety and confidence, leading to increased independence and a sense of connection with the world. The CNIB believes that everyone who would like to have a guide dog should have that opportunity. The CNIB raises, trains and matches dogs with Canadians who are blind or partially sighted. They are also a voice to ensure people with sight loss have opportunities to live, work and play without barriers. They are committed to ensuring social attitudes shift to universal acceptance and appreciation for guide dogs. To help transform our communities into beacons of accessibility and inclusion, a CNIB dog has three career options:

- **Guide Dog** - A guide dog is partnered with a youth or adult with sight loss. Whether it's avoiding obstacles, stopping at curbs and steps or negotiating traffic, this dog fosters independence. The harness and U-shaped handle facilitate communication between the dog and the person who is blind. In this partnership, the person provides directional commands and the dog ensures the team's safety. If necessary, the dog disobeys unsafe commands.

- **Buddy Dog** - A buddy dog is partnered with a child who is living with sight loss. Whether it's feeding, grooming or walking this well-trained family pet, this will give the child an opportunity to care for a dog and make it easier to transition into a guide dog partnership in the future. A buddy dog may be partnered with an adult with sight loss who would benefit from the companionship of a well-trained family pet.

- **Ambassador Dog** - An ambassador dog is partnered with a CNIB staff member to promote CNIB Guide Dogs at community events and raise awareness about the role of guide dogs. These dogs are an important part of marketing the CNIB Guide Dog program by introducing someone to the benefits of guide dogs, recruiting volunteer puppy raisers for puppies-in-training or connecting with individuals who may be interested in sponsoring the program.

Look It Up!

Divide into small groups. Visit www.cagads.com to find a listing of service dog organizations in Canada. Choose one of the organizations not listed in this meeting and find out what kind of training they offer. Share your findings with the group.

Therapy Dogs

The human health benefits of interaction with companion animals are similar to accepted definition of the effects of social support, which has been established as a mechanism to help humans respond successfully to stressful events. Similarly, research has provided evidence of the positive effects of animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy in healthcare settings with children and adults. Reduced anxiety levels and distress in stressful situations, reduced behavioural problems and increased socialization and participation are among the many benefits reported. Contact with animals promotes dialogue among family members, children, people with mental and physical disabilities and lonely people.

Companion animals offer one of the most accessible enhancements to a person's quality of life. Pets can provide companionship, non-judgemental affection and an unconditional support system. They act as a social ice-breaker, facilitate nurturing experiences and provide opportunities for teaching and modeling responsibility to children. For adolescents, pets can serve as confidants, provide emotional support, relieve anxiety and inspire humour and play. For the elderly, pets facilitate healthy activities, provide opportunities for socializing and provide a buffer against stress. It is clear that animals play a major positive role in human development and quality of life for all ages.

Therapy dog services are offered across Canada by **St. John Ambulance**. The program is growing, boasting 3,354 therapy dog program volunteers and dog teams in 2015 which assisted more than 120,000 clients throughout the year. Therapy dog teams gave more than 230,000 hours of their time in a year visiting hospitals, retirement residences, care facilities, schools and universities. The program started in June, 1992 as a pilot program in Peterborough, Ontario.

St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy

Program details:

Therapy dog services are provided in a wide range of community settings such as:

- Hospitals
- Seniors residences and care facilities
- Schools, universities and colleges
- Community centres and libraries

The therapy dog program provides an opportunity for individuals to:

- Talk with the volunteer and the dog
- Feel, touch, pet and cuddle the dog
- Receive unconditional love from the dog
- Carry-out or practice an activity in the presence of the dog

The program offers many benefits, improving quality of lives. Some of the reported benefits include:

- Greater social engagement with individuals/residents talking more, participating more in activities, and smiling more
- Stress relief and distraction from pain
- Comfort and calming
- Improved self-confidence and esteem



Dog therapy programs help children learn how to read.

Image Credit: St. John Ambulance <https://www.sja.ca>

The program varies across Canada based on community need and the availability of volunteers. Therapy dogs routinely offer comfort and companionship in senior residences and care facilities. In hospitals, they may be providing relief and distraction for patients awaiting cancer treatments. There are special programs such as “Paws 4 Stories” which help young children learn to read, and in some communities, therapy dogs work with youth at risk and children with special needs. University campus visits are very popular, helping to relieve stress during exam periods. In special cases, Therapy Dogs can be found working with police and fire departments, social workers and psychologists during times of crisis.

Volunteering with St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program

St. John Ambulance is always looking for individuals who wish to provide health care-oriented volunteer service within their community using their dog to assist.

Therapy dog volunteers must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- Physically and mentally capable of performing the activities that are reasonable for the type of service they may be providing
- Willing to complete an application process and a criminal record check
- Successfully participate in an evaluation
- Able to provide up-to-date veterinarian documents indicating that all required vaccinations are current.

In order to be considered for the program:

- Dogs will be considered at one year of age, but in some cases two years of age is highly recommended
- Dogs must be on a regular regimen of veterinary vaccinations for rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and adenovirus
- Dogs must not be fed a raw food diet

Volunteers and their dogs are generally expected to provide regular visits in order to develop a bond with their designated patients.

Check It Out!

Find out if there is a St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program in your area and what types of services they offer.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Service Dog Program for Canadian Veterans and First Responders



Properly trained PTSD Service Dogs can and do change and save lives. The Wounded Warriors Canada PTSD Service Dog Program provides funding to support the training of approximately 100 dogs per year. The positive impact PTSD Service Dogs have on the lives of an ill and injured member and his or her family is profound.

The average cost to properly train and pair a service dog in 2019 was \$15,000. It takes on average two years to complete the training and pairing process.

Police Dogs

Canine units are fairly common in some police departments. In the late 1800's, dogs were first officially used as police dogs in Belgium and Germany. From there, the uses for police dogs expanded into other countries.

Two common breeds of police dogs are German Shepherd Dogs and Belgian Malinois. They are typically patrol dogs used to detect narcotics and weapons and to pursue and apprehend suspects. Bloodhounds are tracking dogs used to track suspects and victims as well as missing persons. Police dogs ride and usually live with their human partners.

Canine units visit schools presenting anti-drug programs. They make public appearances to educate people about their work.

Search and Rescue Dogs

Search and rescue dogs search for missing people. Some dogs are trained to find both living and dead people while others are trained specifically to find only living people or only dead people. Dogs trained in water searches look for drowning victims. Wilderness search and rescue dogs search either by trailing or air scent. Trailing dogs look for the scent of one person. Air scent dogs pick up the scent of any person in the area. Avalanche dogs search for people buried in snow. Disaster search and rescue dogs search for living and dead people who are trapped in buildings or under building rubble caused by a natural disaster (such as a tornado or an earthquake) or a terrorist attack. Most search and rescue dogs live and retire with their handlers. They can be of any breed or mixed breed with certain purebreds, such as the St. Bernard, originally bred to find people lost in the snow.

Military Dogs

Historically, dogs have been used in wars throughout the world. Today, military dogs are used as scout and patrol dogs, as well as for detecting explosives, mines and weapons.

Herding Dogs

Border Collies, Australian Shepherds, Australian Cattle Dogs and Welsh Corgis are among several breeds of herding dogs. Border Collies and Welsh Corgis are better known for their sheep-herding ability while Australian Shepherds and Australian Cattle Dogs are commonly used to herd cattle. Border Collies are now being used to keep birds and wildlife off of golf courses and air fields as a humane way to deter these birds and animals from living in public places.

Detection Dogs

The Detector Dog Service (DDS) Program provides contraband detection for the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). DDS teams help the CBSA by detecting prohibited and regulated drugs, guns, money, and food, plant and animal products. The teams are strategically located at ports of entry across Canada, serving both traveller and commercial operations. DDS teams are equipped to quickly screen people and goods in the least intrusive manner possible. DDS teams are involved in thousands of interceptions every year and also provide public demonstrations at schools and in communities.

Because of a dog's very keen sense of smell, certain dogs may be trained to detect all types of odours not noticeable to humans – anything from mold in someone's house to certain types of cancer in humans.

Do It!

Make a trip to the local library and have members find books (or e-books) about service dogs – fiction and non-fiction. Why are stories about service dogs so compelling? Have members take out a book. At the next meeting, ask them to talk about the story, including the type of service the dog did and what kind of training the dog would need in real life to do it.

Do It!

Host a movie night about a working dog. After enjoying the movie, discuss it. Why are service dogs important? What did the dog in the movie do? What was challenging for the dog and/or the handler? Do you think the movie was realistic?

AT HOME ACTIVITY

If your dog could be any type of working dog, which type do you think it could be and why? Create a resume for your dog, listing all of their attributes (characteristics) that would help it to qualify to be a working dog.

DIGGING DEEPER

For senior members

A lot of time and money goes into training for a dog to be a successful working dog. Choose one type of working dog and research what training is required. Find out if there is a training facility in your area and see if its possible to visit the training facility to find out more information. Find out how they source the puppies that go into their training programs, if they have a fostering program and what happens to a dog in their program when it retires from it's working life. Be prepared to report your findings at the next meeting or create a presentation for your meeting, an Achievement Program or for a locally community group.

ACTIVITY #1

DOG INDUSTRY CAREERS CHARADES

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various careers related to dogs written on small individual pieces of paper <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a member volunteer to go first. Have this member choose a piece of paper, have them read what is on the paper and then have them act out the career written on the paper with the rest of the group having to guess what that career is• Once the group has guessed the career, write it on a piece of Bristol board, flip chart paper, etc.• Continue this until everyone has had a chance to have a least one turn at acting out a career related to dogs• Review the various careers on the list and add to it.• Potential careers to be written on the paper include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Nutritionisto Veterinariano Dog Breedero Pet Store Ownero Dog Trainero Dog Groomero Dog Walkero Photographero Search and Rescue Unito keep adding to the list!
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to identify and understand the vast array of careers available within the canine industry.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it important to know and understand the vast array of available careers in the canine industry?• How many more careers related to dogs can you think of that weren't a part of this activity?• Are any of these careers something you have thought of? If so, which might you like to pursue?

ACTIVITY #2

GUIDE DOG OBSTACLE COURSE

DO	<p>Time: 20 minutes</p> <p>Materials Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blindfolds• Various objects to create an obstacle course <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divide members into pairs• Have each group do the obstacle course, one group at a time. One person in the pair is blindfolded and the other person will be able to see but can't talk.• Have the blindfolded person put their hand on the shoulder of the person who can see but can't talk.• Have the pair navigate through the obstacle course with the blindfolded person talking but the sighted person only leading but not talking.• Have pairs switch the blindfold with their partner and have them navigate the obstacle course again
REFLECT	<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>To allow members to have a better understanding and be able to empathize with someone who is blind who uses a guide every day to navigate their way around.</p>
APPLY	<p>Processing Prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was this activity easy or hard?• Would it have been easier if the sighted person could speak?• Is there anything you would do differently if you have to go through the obstacle course again?• Is there anything we can do around our homes, on the street or in public buildings to make it easier for a blind person to be able to navigate better?