

Pet Care of a Dog

Dogs are hugely popular pets. In fact, there are eight and a half million dogs being kept as pets in the UK alone.

They are known as 'man's best friend', but how should dogs be cared for and what do we actually know about them?



Diet

Dogs are omnivores, which means they need a well-balanced diet of meat and plant-based foods. They need one meal a day, unless the vet advises otherwise. Their teeth are well-developed, with sharp incisors for tearing meat, and molars for grinding plant foods.

They must have access to clean, fresh water at all times, or else they are at risk of becoming very poorly.

Environment

Dogs need a comfortable, draught-free, clean and quiet environment. They need to be able to sleep, undisturbed.

There needs to be access for them to go outside to the toilet regularly, and have some form of exercise appropriate for their breed, every day. After all, compare the type of walk a St Bernard needs compared to a dachshund!

Dogs need a place where they can go if they are frightened. Dogs have very varied temperaments, or might have been previously mistreated, which means some scare more easily than others.



Did You Know?

The common ancestor of dogs is the wolf!



Dog behaviour

Dogs are intelligent, playful animals, who need to have suitable toys or objects to play with, along with regular exercise. There are 400 different breeds of dog, and each breed has different traits suitable for the purpose of its breed. From herding to hunting, retrieving and tracking, dogs retain instinctive qualities. Herding dogs follow quick commands and whistles; hunting, tracking and retrieving dogs are fast, have strong senses and tend to be easy to command. For these reasons, pet dogs need to be able to play, fetch, run and jump to stay happy and healthy.



Did You Know?

Domestication of dogs began 15,000 years ago!

Changes in behaviour

If a dog is lying down, not looking at you and turning their face away from you, licking their lips with their ears back, it could be a sign that they are worried.

If a dog is lying down, cowering with their ears flat, teeth showing and their tail down between their legs, it could be displaying signs of being angry or unhappy.



Did You Know?

Dogs can hear sounds four times quieter than humans can hear!

Training a dog

Dogs need rewarding with treats when they have done something well. They should not be shouted at, as they won't understand the reasons for this behaviour. They need consistent, clear instructions.

Dangers to dogs

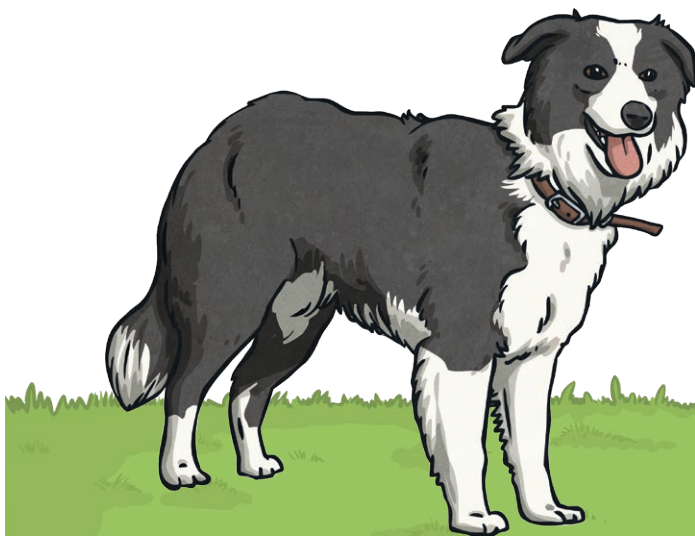
Dogs are naturally inquisitive and need supervision to ensure their safety at all times, especially during walks in unfamiliar places. Some commonplace items are poisonous to dogs:

- Human foods like chocolate, onions, raisins, grapes and sultanas are very poisonous for dogs, and they can become very ill if they eat these things.
- Slug and rat poison can make dogs very ill and even be fatal for them, resulting in kidney failure, abnormal heart rhythms and sickness.



Helpful dogs

Dogs are wonderfully helpful when given the right training. There are assistance dogs which help disabled people, and dogs that can detect explosives, drugs and even illnesses like cancer and diabetes.



Did You Know?

A dog has a highly sensitive sense of smell!

Questions

1. Explain how a dog's teeth suit the diet it needs.

2. What other word could have been used instead of 'undisturbed'?

3. Why does the exercise a dog has need to be 'appropriate to their breed'?

4. In your own words, explain why some dogs might get scared more easily than others.

5. For how long have dogs been kept as pets?

6. Describe what sort of traits you might expect a dog bred for hunting, might have, and why.

7. Give three main instructions on how someone should train their dog.

8. Explain in detail why dogs need watching carefully if taken on a walk in an area they haven't been before.

9. If you were a vet and someone brought their dog in which had been sick, what three questions would you ask the owner to try to establish why the dog is ill?

Answers

1. Explain how a dog's teeth suit the diet it needs.

A dog has very suitable teeth for its diet, because it has sharp incisors for tearing meat, and molars for grinding plant foods.

2. What other word could have been used instead of 'undisturbed'?

Answers will vary. Possible answers: uninterrupted/ unbroken/ in peace/ without disturbance/ without interruption.

3. Why does the exercise a dog has, need to be 'appropriate to their breed'?

Dogs need to be exercised 'appropriate to their breed' because a dog like a dachshund has very short legs and is small, so doesn't need to go on very long walks. However, a dog like a St. Bernard is very big, and has longer legs, so needs to have a longer walk.

4. In your own words, explain why some dogs might get scared more easily than others.

Some dogs might get scared more easily because they have different temperaments/ personalities/ might have been badly treated earlier in their lives.

5. For how long, have dogs been kept as pets?

Dogs have been kept as pets for 15,000 years.

6. Describe what sort of traits you might expect a dog bred for hunting, might have, and why?

Answers will vary. Possible answers based on: good sense of smell/ hearing, able to kill, fast to catch the prey.

7. Give three main instructions on how someone should train their dog.

To train a dog:

give rewards as treats when they have done something well;

don't shout or punish them;

give consistent, clear instructions.

8. Explain in detail, why dogs need watching carefully if taken on a walk in an area they haven't been before.

If a dog is in an area they haven't been before, it will be unfamiliar to them, so they won't know of any dangers/ might fall into or down something. Dogs are inquisitive, so need watching to make sure they are safe.

9. If you were a vet, and someone brought their dog in which had been sick, what three questions would you ask the owner, to try and establish why the dog is ill?

Answers will vary. Possible answers may include reference to asking the owner if the dog had been outside/ eaten anything in the garden/ if the owner had out slug or rat poison down lately/ fed the dog chocolate.

Pet Care of a Dog

Dogs are hugely popular pets. In fact, there are eight and a half million dogs being kept as pets in the UK alone.

They are known as 'man's best friend', but how should dogs be cared for and what do we actually know about them?



Food and drink

Dogs need a well-balanced diet of meat and plant-based foods. They need one meal a day, unless the vet gives different advice for your type of dog. Their teeth are well-developed, with sharp teeth for tearing meat and molars for grinding other foods.

They must be able to get to clean, fresh water at all times, or else they would become very poorly.

Environment

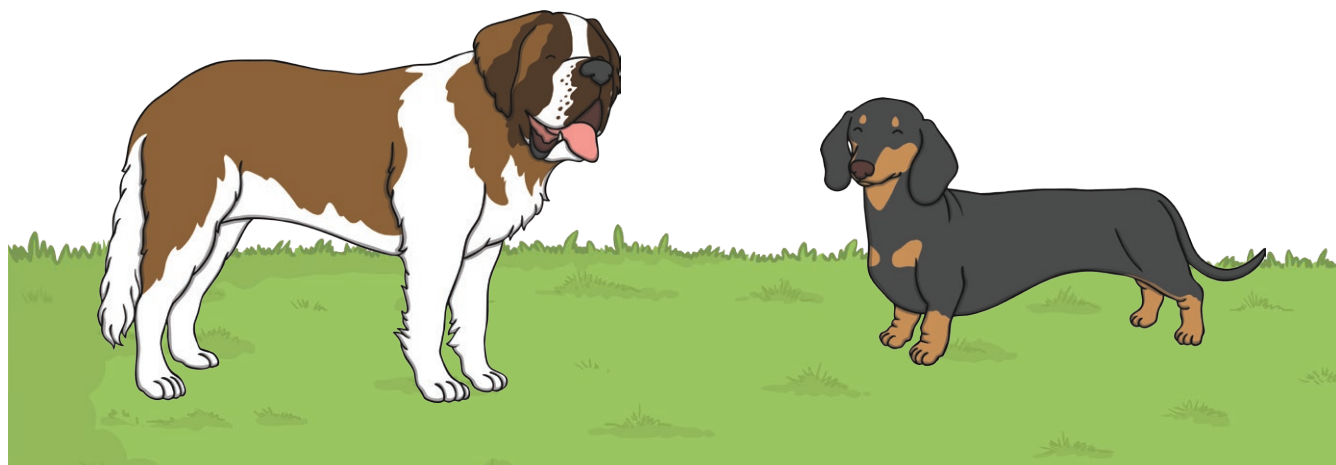
Dogs need a comfortable, clean and quiet environment to sleep, undisturbed.

Dogs need a place where they can go if they are frightened. They have different personalities, and rescue dogs might have had bad experiences, so some get scared more easily than others.



Did You Know?

Dogs descend from the wolf!



Dog behaviour

Dogs are intelligent, playful animals, and need to be exercised and have toys to play with. There are 400 different breeds of dog, and each breed has different traits particular to its breed. Some are bred to be small and fast, to find rabbits down their burrows; others are big and strong, bred for pulling things. From herding to hunting, retrieving and tracking, dogs have instincts, meaning they need to be able to play, fetch, run and jump to stay happy and healthy.



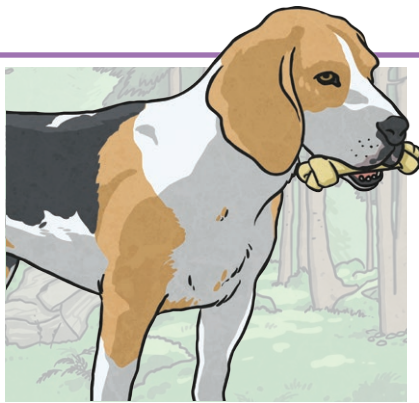
Did You Know?

Dogs can hear sounds four times quieter than humans can hear!

Changes in behaviour

A dog which is licking their lips with their ears back, and not looking at you, might be feeling worried.

A dog which is lying down, cowering with their ears flat, showing their teeth and their tail down between their legs, could be feeling unhappy or angry.



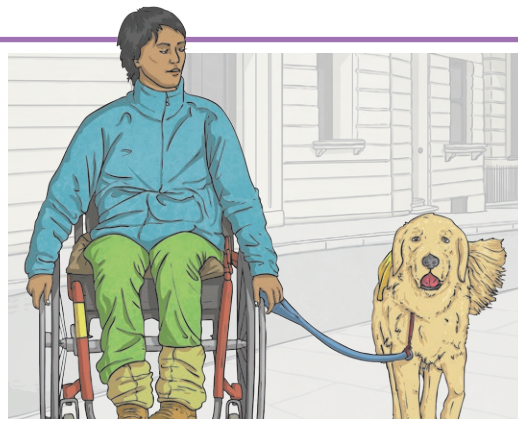
Training a dog

Dogs need to be given treats when they have done something well. They should not be shouted at, as they won't understand this behaviour. They need regular, clear instructions.

Dangers to dogs

Dogs are curious, and need to be watched to make sure they are safe at all times. Some items are poisonous to dogs:

- Foods like chocolate, onions, raisins, grapes and sultanas are very poisonous for dogs, causing them to become very ill if they eat them.
- Slug and rat poison can make dogs very ill and can even result in death!



Helpful dogs

Some dogs can be trained to be assistance dogs. They are trained to help disabled people around the house and with their shopping, and dogs that can find explosives, drugs and even detect illnesses like cancer.



Questions

1. How do we know dogs are a popular pet in the UK?

2. Describe what and how you would feed a dog.

3. Name two factors which might contribute to why some dogs might get scared.

4. What might a dachshund have the right characteristics for, and why?

5. Imagine you are a vet. An owner brings their dog in and says the dog keeps looking around, lies down a lot and is licking its lips more than usual. What might be wrong with it and how do you know?

6. Which two points in the section Training a Dog do you think are the most important, and why?

7. What word has the author used which means that dogs are interested in things?

8. Why should you not feed a dog chocolate buttons?

9. How could a dog help a person in a wheelchair in their home?

10. Instead of this text being called "Pet Care for Dogs", think of a different title.

Answers

1. How do we know dogs are a popular pet in the UK?

We know that dogs are a popular pet in the UK because there are eight and a half million dogs kept as pets.

2. Describe what and how you would feed a dog.

Dogs need food which is meat and plant based. They need one meal a day, unless a vet has said they need feeding differently.

3. Name two factors which might contribute to why some dogs might get scared.

Two factors which might contribute to why some dogs get more scared than others, is that they have different personalities and if they have been a rescue dog, they might have been badly treated before.

4. What might a dachshund have the right characteristics for, and why?

A dachshund might have the right characteristics to be a hunting dog, because they are small and could fit down a rabbit burrow.

5. Imagine you are a vet. An owner brings their dog in and says the dog keeps looking around, lies down a lot and is licking its lips more than usual. What might be wrong with it and how do you know?

I think the dog might be worried about something, because licking their lips a lot, looking away or around, and lying down, are signs of being worried.

6. Which two points in the section Training a Dog, do you think are the most important, and why?

Pupil's own response.

7. What word has the author used, which means that dogs are interested in things?

The word the author has used which means dogs are interested in things, is 'curious'.

8. Why should you not feed a dog chocolate buttons?

You should not feed a dog chocolate buttons because that type of food is poisonous to them and can make them very ill.

9. How could a dog help a person in a wheelchair, in their home?

Pupil's own response. Possible answers based on: carrying things around the house/ fetching/ pulling washing out the washing machine/ helping in a supermarket.

10. Instead of this text being called "Pet Care for Dogs" think of a different title.

Pupil's own response.

Pet Care of a Dog

Dogs are hugely popular pets. In fact, there are eight and a half million dogs being kept as pets in the UK.



Food and drink

Dogs need a good diet of meat and plant-based foods. They need one meal a day. They have sharp teeth for tearing meat, and molars for grinding.

They need fresh, clean water to keep them healthy.

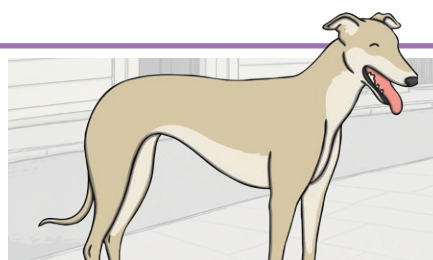
Environment

Dogs need a comfortable and quiet environment to sleep in peace.

Dogs need a place where they can go if they are frightened. Some dogs get more scared than others and need somewhere to feel safe.

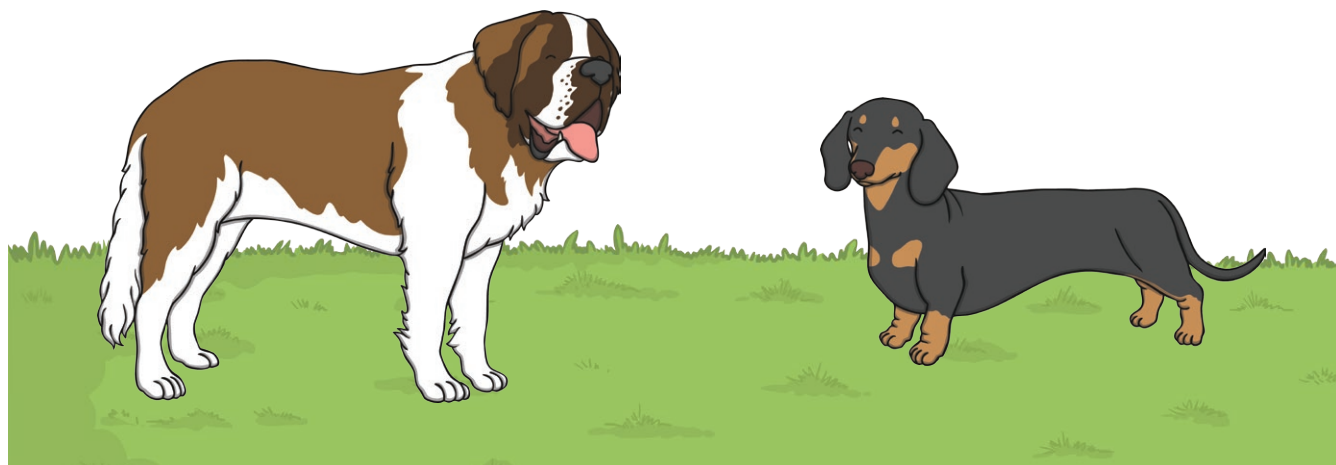
Dog behaviour

Dogs are clever and playful. They need to be exercised and have toys to play with. Different breeds of dog have different skills, which you need to consider when looking after them. Some will want longer walks; others will prefer more time spent playing!



Did You Know?

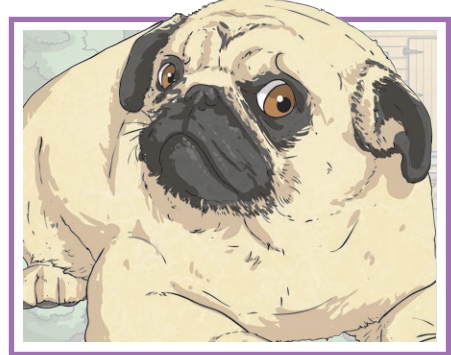
The fastest recorded speed for a greyhound dog was 42 miles per hour!



Changes in behaviour

When a dog is licking its lips with their ears back and not looking at the owner, it might be feeling worried.

This dog is lying down, with its ears flat, showing its teeth and it has its tail down between its legs. This dog could be feeling unhappy or angry.



Dangers to dogs

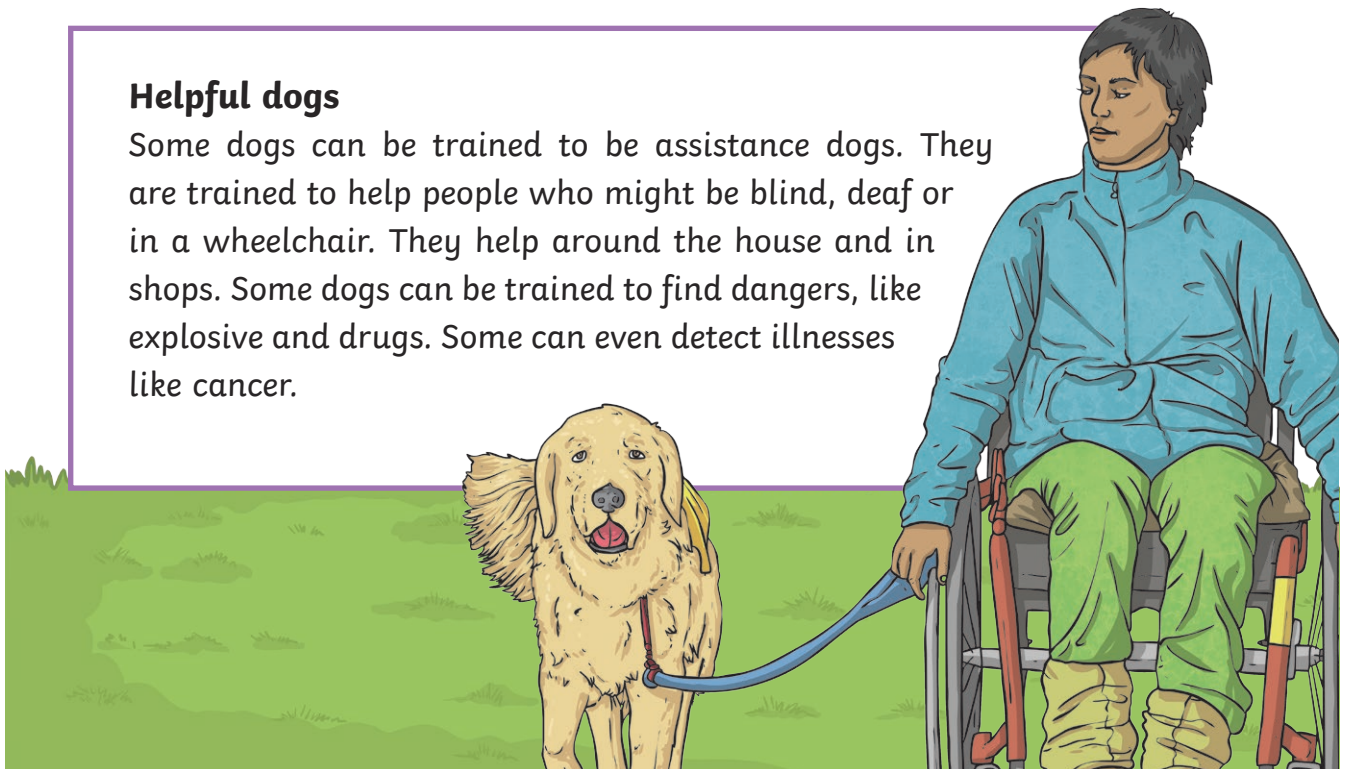
Dogs are interested in everything, and they need to be watched to make sure they are always safe.

These things are poisonous for a dog:

- chocolate
- raisins
- grapes
- sultanas

Helpful dogs

Some dogs can be trained to be assistance dogs. They are trained to help people who might be blind, deaf or in a wheelchair. They help around the house and in shops. Some dogs can be trained to find dangers, like explosive and drugs. Some can even detect illnesses like cancer.



Questions

1. How many dogs are kept as pets in the UK?

2. What do dogs have to help them eat meat?

3. Which two adjectives describe the type of environment dogs need to be able to sleep well?

4. Why might some dogs need a safe place to go to?

5. Name three activities that dogs need to be able to do to stay happy and healthy.

6. Describe two things an unhappy or angry dog might do.

7. Why should you not give a dog raisins or grapes?

8. Name two jobs that dogs could be trained to do to help people.

9. Which fact has surprised you the most?

Answers

1. How many dogs are kept as pets in the UK?

There are eight and a half million dogs kept as pets in the UK.

2. What do dogs have to help them eat meat?

Dogs have sharp teeth to help them eat meat.

3. Which two adjectives describe the type of environment dogs need to be able to sleep well?

Two adjectives which describe the type of environment dogs need to be able to sleep in peace, are 'comfortable and quiet'.

4. Why might some dogs need a safe place to go to?

Some dogs might need a safe place to go because they might get frightened/ scared.

5. Name three activities that dogs need to be able to do to stay happy and healthy.

A dog needs to be able to: play, fetch, run and jump to stay happy and healthy. (Accept any three.)

6. Describe two things an unhappy or angry dog might do.

An unhappy or angry dog might lie down, with its ears flat, showing its teeth and it has its tail down between its legs. (Accept any two.)

7. Why should you not give a dog raisins or grapes?

You should not give a dog raisins or grapes because they are poisonous to dogs.

8. Name two jobs that dogs could be trained to do to help people.

Pupil's own response based on helping disabled people in the house and shops, find explosives, drugs and detect illnesses like cancer.

9. Which fact has surprised you the most?

Pupil's own response.