



4-H DOG ACTIVITY PAGE

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Beginning

Your 4-H COMPANION ANIMAL—DOG Project

When you have a dog, you have to make many decisions about your pet. This 4-H project can help you make good decisions for your dog. Some of the skills you can learn and activities you can do in this project are listed below. Check your favorites. Then, work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.

- There are more than 120 pure breeds of dogs recognized. Find information on three breeds and write about them.
- Learn the difference between “spaying” and “neutering.”
- Conduct a demonstration dealing with dogs. (Don't bring a real dog!)
- Interview a dog breeder or veterinarian about proper dog care, including vet visits.
- Learn several ways dogs help people.
- Learn ways to control fleas.
- Learn about diseases that can be fatal to dogs.
- Adopt a dog (if you don't already have one) after you have learned about breeds, gender, health care, housing, expense and time commitment of caring for dogs.
- Complete a service project involving dogs.
- Other _____



Life Skill

Ethical
Decision Making

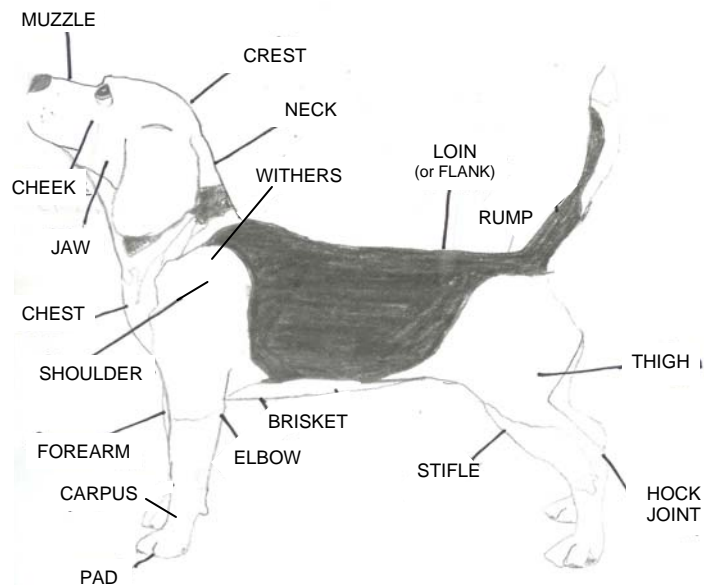
My Dog Story

On another sheet of paper, write about your dog. Things to write about include breed, gender, health, age, training, personality, type of food and exercise. Include a photo if you like. Share your story with your 4-H friends and keep it in your 4-H project folder.

Dog Selection Criteria

There are several things you need to consider when deciding which dog to get.

- **Use** - Will your dog be used for hunting, breeding, a guide dog or just a family pet?
- **Size** - Do you have enough space? Can you handle a big dog?
- **Gender** - Do you want a male or female dog? Females may be more docile than males. All dogs should be spayed or neutered if not used in a quality breeding program.
- **Price** - What kind of dog can you afford? What will you need to care for your dog? Remember to think about food, bedding, toys and other things you will need for your dog.



Tail-wagging Facts:

- A dog's temperature is between 100.2—102.8 degrees Fahrenheit.
- A Chihuahua is the oldest breed of dog native to North America.
- A Greyhound can run up to 45 miles per hour for short periods of time.
- Dogs can see color, but it is not as vivid as the color we see.
- There are seven different groups of dogs: Toys, Hounds, Sporting, Non-Sporting, Working and Terriers.
- The best time for taking a puppy from its litter is when it is 56 days old.

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Dog Breeds Word Search

Look on the Internet or in books to learn about breeds of dogs. Share what you learn with others.

G U D K A G D Y S D S G N S Q A Z R G Y
 C O Z O Q F F N A H O F E P L B E D O O
 R P D J B N G L U D I E X A O V S R D R
 S E T P M E M H L O N H S C E L E E R K
 U W I S E A R L A E H K T I O X G H E S
 F T N R T E U M R N A Y R Z D N N P T H
 B Z P I R B H Y A N H T E W U U I E A I
 L H O S Q E P S M N E O G R I M K H W R
 O N A S P T T A H R P D U Y G R E S E E
 O X T N A R L H R S O I V N N P P N S T
 D S F E E A D O S M I S N K D Q Q A E E
 H M R P M R D B E I C L Z S V U S M U R
 O G A U K A I O F A T I G E C T M R G R
 U T T T R U C B X N T T S N F H U E U I
 N E N B S A M O Y E D V O P E U E G T E
 D K A E N A D T A E R G Y C L D D R R R
 B L F G C E W L F Y T O V P S H L I O J
 N O R W E G I A N E L K H O U N D O P P
 R E V E I R T E R N E D L O G Q N L Q Y
 S I B E R I A N H U S K Y L E D X F D T

AFGHAN HOUND
 ALASKAN MALAMUTE
 BLOODHOUND
 BULLDOG
 DALMATIAN
 DOBERMAN PINSCHER
 GERMAN SHEPHERD
 GOLDEN RETRIEVER
 GREAT DANE
 GREAT PYRENEES
 GREYHOUND

LABRADOR RETRIEVER
 NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND
 OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG
 PEKINGESE
 PORTUGUESE WATER DOG
 SAMOYED
 SCOTTISH TERRIER
 SHIH TZU
 SIBERIAN HUSKY
 YORKSHIRE TERRIER



Don't forget
 to submit your
 project report to
 your 4-H leader!

Career Scavenger Hunt

By asking others, researching on the Internet, or reading a book or magazine—search for a job that uses companion animal skills and knowledge. Here's what you are looking for.

1. Job Title _____
2. Job Description _____

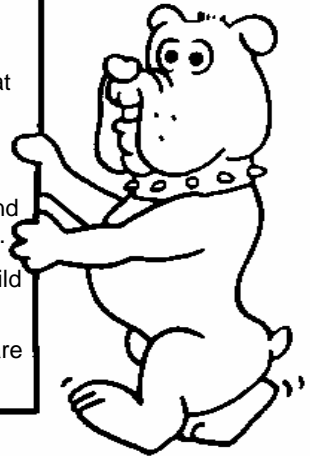
3. Education Required _____

Service Ideas

- Collect items (food, toys, etc.) for an animal shelter.
- Help find homes for stray dogs at a shelter.
- Conduct an educational "show & tell" about proper dog care for younger children.
- Volunteer to work at an animal shelter.
- Care for someone else's dog.

Demonstration Ideas:

- ☆ Show how to correctly bathe a dog.
- ☆ Demonstrate proper showmanship techniques at a dog show.
- ☆ Collect dog food tags from 3 different brands, compare the ingredients and give a talk on your findings.
- ☆ Demonstrate how to build a doghouse.
- ☆ Show the day-to-day care of a dog.



Additional Resources

Making decisions is an important part of the 4-H companion animal—dog project. This activity sheet has given you the opportunity to explore things to think about as you make decisions about your dog. You've selected a dog, explored different breeds of dogs and learned lots of other cool things. But this is just the beginning! Use the resources listed below to continue learning about dogs.

- School & public libraries
- People who work with dogs, such as veterinarians, dog breeders, groomers and pet shop owners
- 4-H project groups
- The 4-H companion animal Web page:

<http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4h/projects/companimal.htm>

For more ideas,
 contact your
 4-H office.

Other 4-H Dog Activities

- 4-H Demonstrations
- 4-H Exhibits
- Dog Project Groups
- Pet Show at the Fair
- 4-H Dog Shows

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