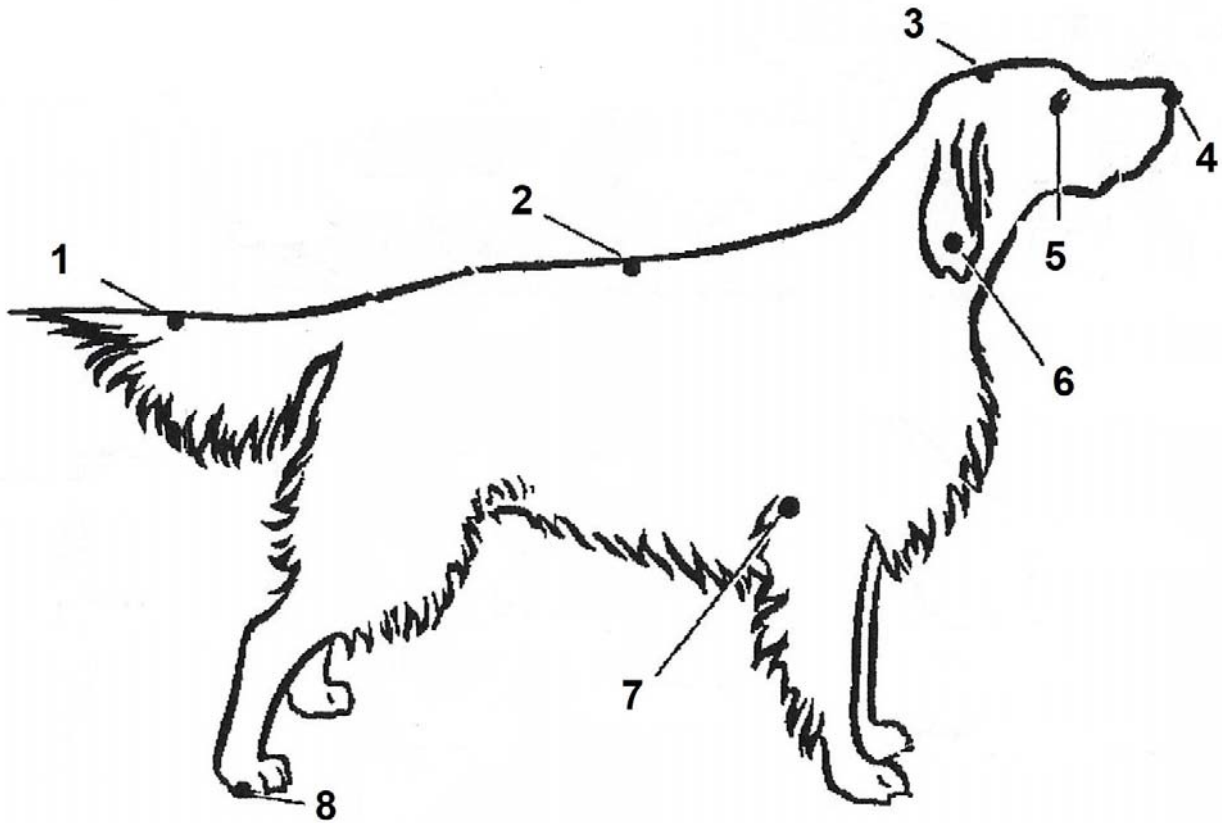


LEVEL 1 TEST - STUDY GUIDE

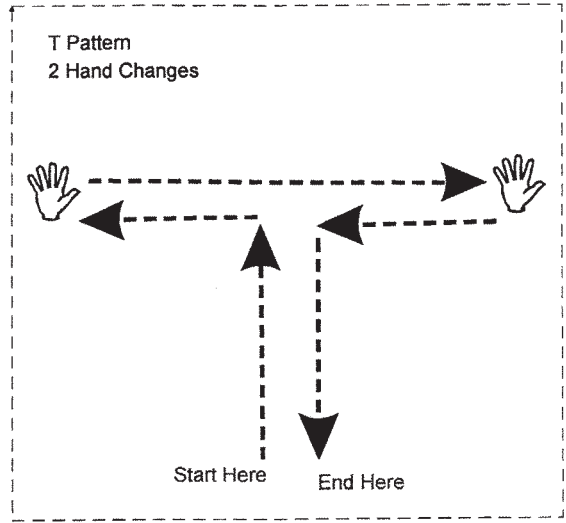
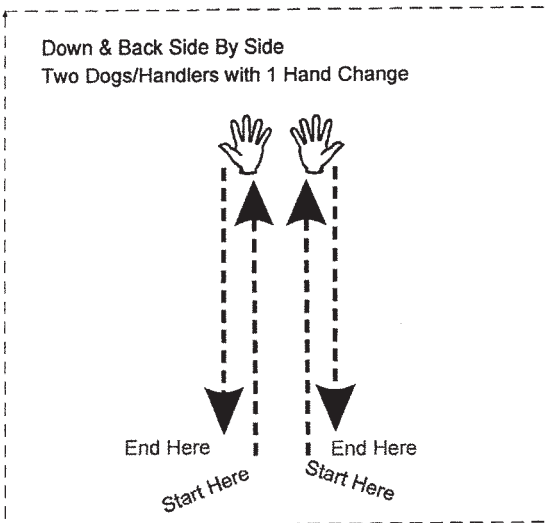
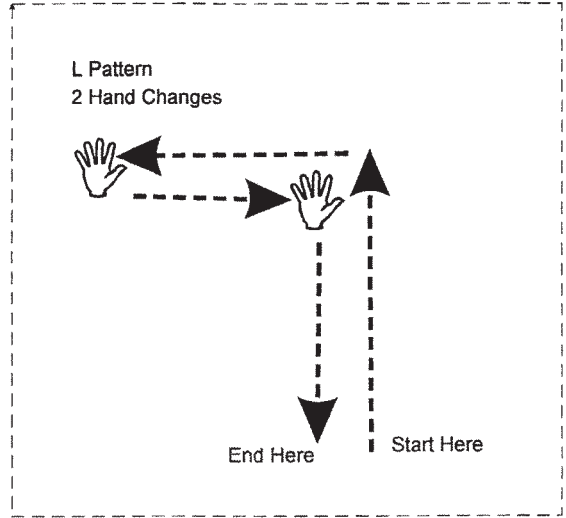
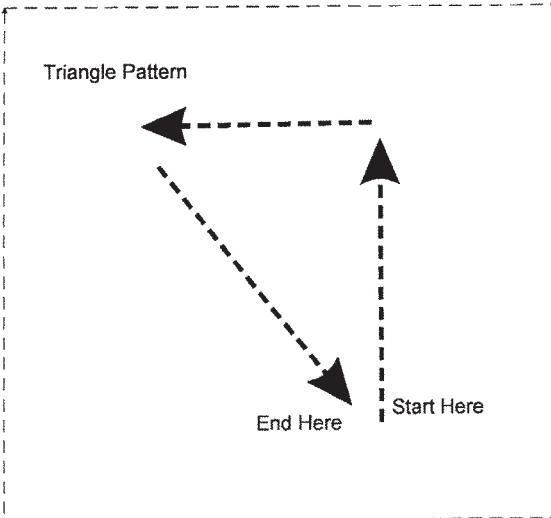
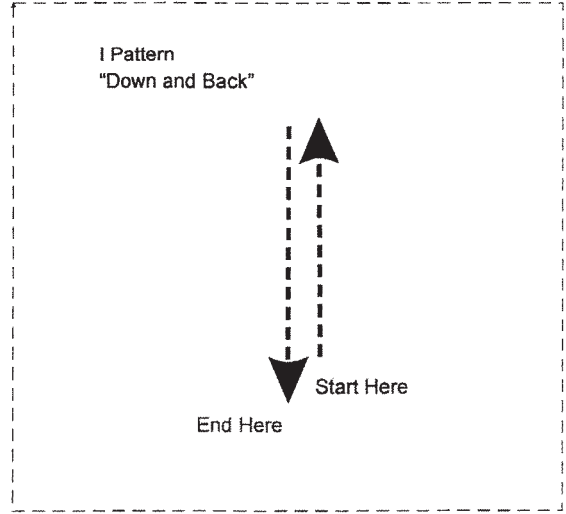
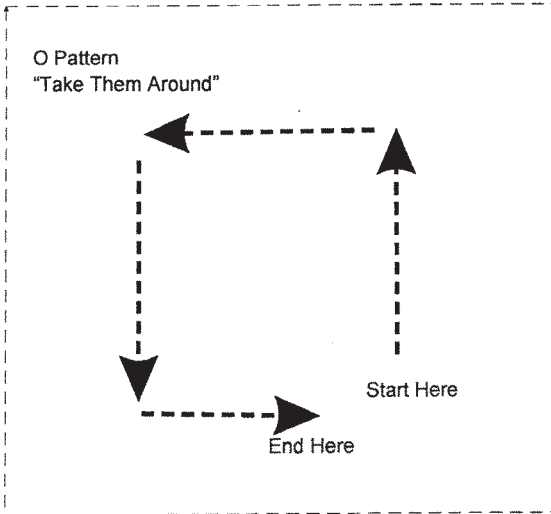
Dog Body Parts



1	Tail	5	Eye
2	Back	6	Ear (or Leather)
3	Skull	7	Elbow
4	Nose	8	Pad



Showmanship Patterns

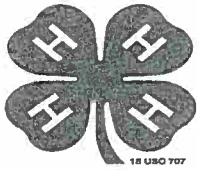


Obedience exercises – continued

Recall – this exercise begins with the dog in heel position. The judge will say “Leave your dog”. You will tell the dog to stay and walk out to the end of your leash, turn and face your dog. The judge will then say “Call your dog”. Using your dog’s name, call your dog to you. Your dog must come to you quickly and sit in front of you. The judge will then tell you to finish. You will say your dog’s name and give them a finish command. The dog will then return to the heel position.

Long Sit – this exercise begins with the dog in heel position. The judge will say “Sit your dog”. You will say your dog’s name and a sit command. The judge will then say “Leave your dog”. You will say your dog’s name and tell them to stay. You will then walk out to the end of your leash, turn and face your dog. The long sit is for 1 min. After the time is up, the judge will say “Back to your dog”. You will then walk back to your dog walking around the back of your dog, returning to heel position.

Long Down – this exercise begins with the dog in heel position. The judge will say “Down your dog”. You will say your dog’s name and a down command. The judge will then say “Leave your dog”. You will say your dog’s name and tell them to stay. You will then walk out to the end of your leash, turn and face your dog. The long down is for 3 mins. After the time is up, the judge will say “Back to your dog”. You will then walk back to your dog walking around the back of your dog, returning to heel position. Your dog must remain down until the judge says “Exercise finished”. The long down is for 1 minute



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

LEVEL 1 – DOG CARE AND TRAINING

Member's Name: _____

Date Passed: _____

1. What is the length of the leash that you use for the Sub-Novice exercises? *6 Feet*
2. Which side of the handler is the dog always supposed to be on? *Left Side*
3. When you do a "Recall", where should the dog be when it comes to you? *Sitting In Front, facing you*
4. Dogs should only be vaccinated once in their lives for Rabies. True False (circle your answer)
5. How long is the "Long Sit" exercise? *1 minute*
6. How long is the "Long Down" exercise? *3 minutes*
7. What side of the handler is the dog on when doing the "Heel" exercises? *Left Side*
8. What are the names of the two types of collars you can use on your dog in the obedience ring? *Flat Buckle collar and Choke Chain collar*
9. Does it matter if your dog sits crooked when he does a sit as long as he heels right beside you? Yes No
(circle your answer)
10. You can give your dog as many commands as you need to make them sit and stay in the obedience ring.
True False (circle your answer)

PAWS to Consider

Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper

Speak! (Share what you did)

- What resources did you use to identify dog breeds?
- What dog breeds do you like best? Why?

Chew on This (Process what's important)

- What can a dog's breed and breed group tell you about that dog?
 - Why is it so important for you to learn about different dog breeds?
-
-

Catch the Scent (Generalize to your life)

- What breeds of dogs are in your community?
-
-

Point the Way (Apply what you learned)

- How can you use what you learned about breeds to offer helpful advice to someone who wants to select a dog?
-
-



www.n4hcc.org/dog

Dog breeds

• Breed group



Dig This!

Hunters, Herders and Helpers

There are more than 700 dog breeds in the world. The American Kennel Club (AKC) recognizes about 150 breeds, which are divided into eight groups.

Sporting. Active and alert, these dogs were developed to work closely with people to hunt birds. Examples include English Setters, Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels and Vizslas.

Hound. Sweet and loving dogs that hunt by scent or sight. Examples include Bloodhounds, Salukis, Borzois, Greyhounds, Dachshunds and Beagles.

Working. Large, intelligent and protective dogs that do tasks such as herding, guarding or pulling carts. Examples include Doberman Pinschers, Boxers, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards and Siberian Huskies.

Terrier. Energetic, intelligent and brave, these dogs were developed to hunt pests. Examples are Parson Russell Terriers, West Highland White Terriers, Scottish Terriers and Airedale Terriers.

Toy: These small companions love people and attention. Examples are Papillions, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Pugs and Chihuahuas.

Non-sporting. Good companions, these breeds rarely do the original job for which they were bred. Examples include Dalmatians, Standard Poodles, Chow Chows and Schipperkes.

Herding. Highly intelligent and full of energy, these dogs need lots of exercise. Examples are Border Collies, Australian Shepherds, Welsh Corgis and Briards.

Miscellaneous. This group includes breeds that may become fully recognized by the AKC. These dogs may compete in some AKC events and earn some titles. Examples are Plotts, Neopolitan Mastiffs and Redbone Coonhounds.

Resources: American Kennel Club

Begging for More

1. Attend a local dog show and write down all the different breeds you see in each breed group. If possible, take photos of as many different breeds as you can and create a notebook about dog breeds.
2. Visit an animal shelter. Describe the main breed and breed group of each dog, including mutts. Note how each dog's behavior and personality relate to its breed and breed group.

Howl about this?

- Dogs that have fur with "tiger stripes" are called brindle. Boxers, Plotts, Mastiffs and American Staffordshire Terriers are examples of dogs that often having brindle coloring.
- Parson Russell Terriers used to be called Jack Russell Terriers.

PAWS to Consider

Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper

Speak! (Share what you did)

- Who are the dog groomers in your area?
- What was your demonstration about?

Chew on This (Process what's important)

- Why do you need to keep your dog clean and care for his teeth, ears and eyes?
 - How does talking with a groomer or veterinarian help you improve your communication skills?
-
-

Catch the Scent (Generalize to your life)

- What problems have you seen from dogs not being groomed?
 - Besides giving a demonstration, how else can you communicate what you know with others?
-
-

Point the Way (Apply what you learned)

- How will you change how you groom and care for your dog?
 - How will the demands of grooming affect which breed of dog you might want in the future?
-
-

• Quick • Pinna • Debris



www.n4hcc.org/dog

Grooming

HOW about this?

- There are several breeds of hairless dogs that don't need any brushing!
- Ear mites, yeast infections, plant parts and bacteria can all cause ear problems in dogs.
- Some dogs with ear problems can shake their ears so hard that they burst blood vessels in the ear *pinna*, which makes the whole ear swell up with bloody fluid.
- A dog's coat can become dry if it is bathed too often.



Dig This!

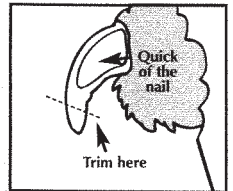
Brush, Clip, Trim and Snip

Be patient with your dog as you train it for grooming. Groom dogs on a table with a rubber mat or rug for gripping. Work for short periods of time until your dog gets used to grooming.

Only bathe your dog if he is dirty, smells bad or needs to have his skin or coat treated with a special shampoo for his health. You can wipe his coat with a damp towel between baths. If you must bathe your dog for a show, do so 48 hours before the show. Have an adult present when you groom your dog because some dogs do not like to be groomed.

Grooming Steps

- **Brush dog**, removing mats and *debris*; use a toothed rake and brush gently all the way to the skin; check behind ears, in armpits, on back legs and under tail
- **Clean matter** from eyes with a moist cotton ball
- **Clean ears** with alcohol and cotton balls
- **Brush teeth** with soft toothbrush and dog (not human) toothpaste
- **Trim nails**. Try not to cut into the *quick* (red area). If you do and it bleeds, dab a little cornstarch on to stop the bleeding.
- **Wet, bathe** with dog shampoo, rinse twice
- **Apply coat conditioner** if needed
- **Dry** with towel or blow drier set on low
- **Brush out coat**
- **Trim** according to breed or type
- **Clip** hair between toes and around foot pads
- **Praise** your dog for behaving well!



Begging for More

1. Help a dog groomer for a day. Note and record the many steps that professional groomers do while grooming a dog. Take a picture of you helping the groomer and attach it to this page. Remember to stay safe at all times.
2. Describe how to groom two very different dog breeds and attach your report to this page.

PAWS to Consider

Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper

Speak! (Share what you did)

- What safety hazards did you identify in your dog's environment?
- What surprised you most during your survey?

Chew on This (Process what's important)

- Why is it a good idea to protect your dog from harm?
- How does keeping your dog safe show that you are a responsible owner?

Catch the Scent (Generalize to your life)


- What safety problems has your dog experienced?
- What aspects of your environment are unsafe or unhealthy?

Point the Way (Apply what you learned)

- How can you make your dog's environment safer?
- How will being a responsible dog owner help you become a more responsible student or friend?



www.n4hcc.org/dog
Pet safety



Howl about this?

- Antifreeze is very poisonous to dogs, so store it safely and clean up any spills right away.



Keeping Your Hound Safe and Sound

How many of these hazards did you discover in your dog's environment?

Indoor Hazards	Outdoor Hazards	Other Hazards
Electric cords and outlets Collars Garbage Sharp objects Foreign objects Small toys Decorations Chocolate Poisonous plants Chemicals Soap Rocking chairs Medications Toilet bowl Bones Packing materials Paint Hot tubs Hyperthermia Candles and flames Glass windows Stairs Others...	Ponds, lakes and wells Pools and hot tubs Barbed wire Other animals Trauma from cars Getting lost Wildlife Bee stings Snake bites Collars Garbage and dead animals Sharp objects Small rocks Porcupine quills Bullets Arrows Hot pavement Hyperthermia Frostbite Hypothermia Others....	Hot cars Eye injuries riding in cars Diseases contracted at kennels, vet hospital Many others...

Prevention Plan

- Vaccinate, deworm and take your dog to the veterinarian regularly.
- Keep your dog on a leash or harness when it is not in an enclosed area.
- Put toys, small bones and other "swallowable" objects where your dog can't get them.
- Maintain good fences to keep your dog safe outside.
- Install baby gates and locking cabinets to keep your dog away from dangerous things.
- Remove trash and garbage from your dog's environment promptly.
- Don't take dogs in cars unnecessarily.
- Train your dog to obey you.
- Remove poisonous objects from your dog's environment.
- Conduct a pet safety patrol!

• Gastroenteritis • Hyperthermia • Hypothermia



Begging for More

1. Videotape your dog's environment. Show your video to your group and discuss any health or safety concerns you notice.
2. Create a safety quiz for other youth. Use it to discuss dog safety issues.

PAWS to Consider

Discuss the answers to these questions with your helper

Speak! (Share what you did)

- What is the final number of puppies you created?
- How did this activity make you think and feel about homeless puppies?

Chew on This (Process what's important)

- How did the diagram help clarify the concept of pet overpopulation?
- Besides spaying and neutering your dog, what else is involved with being a responsible pet owner?

Catch the Scent (Generalize to your life)

- What are your experiences with homeless dogs, unwanted puppies and the pet overpopulation problem?
- What other information have you shown through diagrams?

Point the Way (Apply what you learned)

- How can you teach others about the importance of spaying and neutering pets?
- How could you use your diagram as an educational tool?



Dig This!

seriously

Pet Population Myths

The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 6 to 8 MILLION animals enter shelters every year and only half find homes; the rest must be euthanized. Responsible pet owners have their animals spayed and neutered so they don't contribute to the pet overpopulation problem.

Spaying and neutering are safe and routine operations when performed on healthy animals by experienced veterinarians. Some communities have low or reduced-cost programs to encourage dog owners to spay or neuter their pets.

Many myths surround pet reproduction. Here are the facts.

Myth	Fact
"A female dog will be a better pet if she has a litter."	Having a litter may change a dog's personality for the worse.
"A female dog shouldn't be spayed until she has had one heat cycle."	Waiting until she goes through a heat period increases the likelihood that a dog will become pregnant.
"There's no need to spay or neuter dogs that have no opportunity to come into contact with another dog and mate."	Besides preventing unwanted puppies, spaying and neutering dogs prevents serious health problems, including some cancers.
"My dog is very nice and I would like puppies just like him/her."	There is no guarantee that puppies will look or act like their parents. Also, pregnancies can cause health problems for a beloved female dog and can even be fatal.
"I'll be able to find good homes for all my dog's puppies."	These puppies will just be added to those that have already been born and need homes. Also, how do you know your puppies will go to GOOD homes and be well cared for?
"I'll be able to make money breeding my dog and selling puppies."	Perhaps you won't be able to sell all the dogs and will have to care for them into adulthood. Puppies need vaccinations, food, deworming and veterinary care. Also, the mother could have trouble during pregnancy or birth, which could create a large veterinary bill. You may not be able to find anyone interested in paying a breeding fee for your male dog unless he is a Champion.



www.n4hcc.org/dog

Pet overpopulation
Spay and neuter



Howl about this?

- Puppies are now being spayed and neutered when they are as young as 6 weeks old.

Begging for More

1. Watch a dog being spayed or neutered at a veterinary clinic or on an educational videotape.
2. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper to educate people in your community about the importance of pet population control. Use facts and statistics from your local shelter about the homeless pet problem in your area if you can.



Speak! (*Share what you did*)

- What were your dog's vital signs?
- Which vital sign was the easiest to measure? The most difficult? Why?

Chew on This (*Process what's important*)

- Why is it important to take your dog's vital signs if you think she is hurt or ill?
- Why should you always keep human safety in mind when trying to help a sick or injured animal?

Catch the Scent (*Generalize to your life*)

- What types of first aid have you given or received?
- How is first aid for dogs similar to first aid for humans? How is it different?

Point the Way (*Apply what you learned*)

- How can you prevent injuries and illnesses in your dog?
- How can you make your activities and environment safer for you?

• Vital signs • CPR • Toxic



Howl about this?

- Never call emergency 911 for a pet emergency!
- Don't apply a splint if your dog is resisting—you could make the break worse
- Don't apply a tourniquet to a bleeding limb. Instead, keep applying pressure and adding absorbent bandage materials over the original pressure bandage. If you must apply a tourniquet, be prepared for the dog to possibly lose the limb below the tourniquet.

Canine first aid is the immediate, temporary care given to a dog until he can be transported to a veterinarian. *Never put yourself at risk to help an injured or sick dog!* Get help from an adult to approach and assess the dog. Even your own dog may require a muzzle to let you examine and move him safely if he is in pain and scared. Vital signs help you assess what is going on inside a dog's body.

Temperature. Have an assistant restrain your dog. Put gloves on. Put lubricant on the tip of the thermometer and gently insert it about an inch into your dog's rectum. Leave it there for one minute. Remove, take the reading. Clean the thermometer with disinfectant and wash your hands.

Pulse. Gently feel inside your dog's inner thigh for a soft, pulsing artery. Count the number of pulses that occur within 15 seconds and multiply by four to get heartbeats per minute.

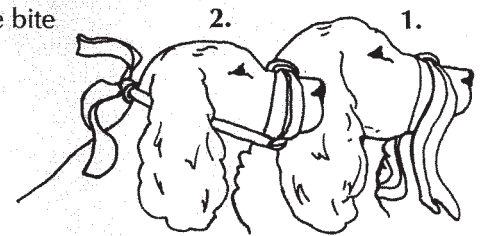
Respiration. Watch your dog's chest move out with each breath. Count the number of breaths that occur within 15 seconds and multiply by four to get breaths per minute.

Mucous Membrane Color. Use your dog's gums or inside of his lips to assess mucous membrane color. Pink is the normal color. Abnormal colors include white, pale pink, blue, yellow, brownish or gray.

Capillary Refill Time. With the tip of your finger, gently press the gum or inside of the lips until the pinkish color turns to white. Pull your finger away and count how long it takes for the pink color to return.

Common Emergencies

- Trauma
- Ingestion of toxic substances
- Bee sting
- Poisonous reptile bite
- Electrocutation
- Heatstroke



Use gauze or soft rope to make a quick dog muzzle. Make a loop around the dog's nose and tie a half-hitch knot on top. Tie another half-hitch knot below, then tie a slip knot behind the dog's ears. All knots should be very snug.

Begging for More

1. Visit your library and check out a book on pet first aid to learn more. Take notes on what you discover.
2. Ask your veterinarian if you can volunteer at the veterinary clinic for at least a day. Keep a journal about the dog emergencies you saw. How could these problems have been prevented?
3. Demonstrate how to perform canine CPR.



www.n4hcc.org/dog

First aid



Dog Collars

Speak! (Share what you did)

- Which training tools were available today?
- Which training tool is your favorite? Why?

Chew on This (Process what's important)

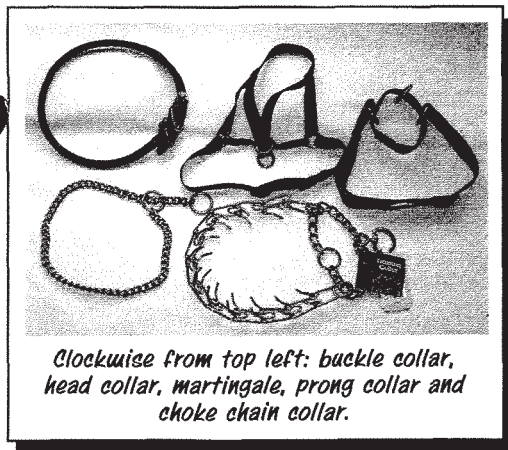
- Which training tool did you decide would be best for your dog? Why?
- How does each of the training tools work?

Catch the Scent (Generalize to your life)

- Which training tools have you used before? How effective were they?
- What do you like to do before you make an important decision?

Point the Way (Apply what you learned)

- How will you change the training tools you use on your dog as it gains more skills?
- What are some careers that involve the ability to make important decisions quickly?



Clockwise from top left: buckle collar, head collar, martingale, prong collar and choke chain collar.

• Aversive: causes avoidance of an unpleasant stimulus



Choke Chain Collar. This is used widely for obedience because it is one of two collars allowed in AKC competition. The handler offers a correction by giving a quick upward jerk on the end attached to the leash. This collar does not have a "stop" to the amount of chain you can pull through and needs to be monitored carefully, especially with how hard and long youth pull on the end of the chain. The leash should never be tight unless the youth is issuing a correction and then it should be immediately loosened.

Flat Buckle Collar. This is the other choice AKC offers to obedience competitors. This collar offers the least resistance on the dog's neck and works well where the handler and dog have a good bond.

Head Collars. Also known as a head halter, a head collar is an alternative to an aversive collar. When properly fitted, the handler has control of the dog's head. Thorough familiarization with proper use of this tool is essential for dog acceptance and successful training.

Martingale Collars. These tools are popular in the breed ring and have some popularity in obedience training because they reduce the amount of choking, are "escape-proof" and reduce coat damage. The amount of control varies depending on the dog's breed, size and behavior.

Prong Collar. This tool is an interlocking chain of blunt, metal prongs connected by a loop of small link chain. Contrary to its looks, this collar is humane because it will only tighten a limited amount and less pressure and strength are needed as compared to the choke collar. The owner should attach the leash to the two rings on the collar to evaluate the dog's reaction to tightening before moving down to one ring. Only small- or medium-sized links should be used.

Clicker Training. This is a fun, non-aversive training technique that gives an animal feedback about its behavior. A sharp sound is produced by the clicker when the trainer presses it. The purpose is to mark a desired behavior being performed by the dog. It is as though the trainer is saying "THAT is what I want you to do." The animal hears the sound and associates the action it performed with a positive reward it received during clicker training.



Dog training clicker



The goal is for a dog to learn to keep the leash loose and not pull the handler.



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Training Tools

Begging for More

1. Using only a clicker, train a dog to perform a new trick and demonstrate it to a group.
2. Make an educational poster about training tools and display it at your county fair.
3. Give a public demonstration about the use of dog training tools.

L

Leather - The earflap of hounds and spaniels.

M

Mantle - Dark-shaded portion of the coat on shoulder, back and sides as in St. Bernard.

Mask - Dark shading on the head as in Mastiff, Boxer and Pekinese.

N

Neurology - The study of the nervous system and related disorders.

Neutered - To remove the male reproductive organs to prevent unwanted breeding and disease.

Novice class - Same as graduate beginner class except the dog is required to perform the heel exercise off leash.

Nutrient - Substance that can be used as food by the body,

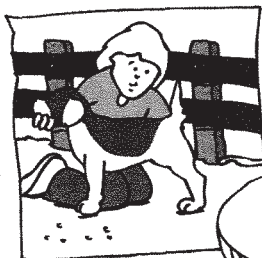
O

Open class - Obedience class in which dogs perform all exercises off lead. Exercises include figure 8, drop on recall, retrieve on flat, retrieve over high jump, broad jump, long sit and long down.

Ophthalmology - The study of the structure, function and diseases of the eye.

Orthopedics - The branch of medicine concerned with corrections of deformities of the skeletal system.

Overpopulation - An excess quantity of an animal species that cannot be supported by the environment in which the species lives.



P

Parasite - Organism deriving nourishment from another living being.

Parasitology - The study of parasites.

Pathology - The study of the origins, natures, causes and development of diseases.

Pedigree - The recorded descent of purebred animal of three generations or more.

Pet responsibility - Human accountability for the care and humane treatment of companion animals. Compliance with local animal control laws so pets are not a hazard or nuisance to the community.

Plume - Full and thick hair on the tail as in Pekinese and Collie.

Point - The immovable stance of the hunting dog taken to indicate the presence and position of game.

Pom-pom - Ball of hair left on the end of the tail of Poodles.

Posture - The bodily poses assumed by certain animal species to communicate with other animals.

R

Radiology - The study of radiant energy and its applications in the treatment of disease.

Retrieve - Hunting or obedience term. The act of bringing shot game or an object back to the handler.



S

Saddle - A black marking over the back, like a saddle.

Screw tail - Kinky, twisted tail as in the Basenji.

Spayed - To remove the female reproductive organs to prevent unwanted breeding and disease.

Standard - Written description of the ideal dog of each recognized breed used to evaluate dogs in conformation judging at breed shows.

Surgery - The branch of medicine that relates to body injuries, deformities and diseased conditions requiring treatment by operative procedures.

T

Team class - Obedience class in which four dogs and handlers work together performing exercises on the graduate beginner course.

Terrier - Group of dog breeds used originally for hunting vermin. Most originated from the United Kingdom.

Toy dog - One of a group of the breed dogs characterized by very small size.

Triangle pattern - The showmanship gaiting pattern where you gait the dog to the right around the two edges of the ring and back toward the judge who stands on the diagonal.

U

Utility class - Obedience class in which dog performs all exercises off lead. Exercises include scent discrimination of a leather and metal article, directed retrieve, signal exercise, directed jumping and group examination.

W

Walleye - Blue eyes as in Blue Merle Collies, Harlequin Danes and Dalmatians. Sometimes called China eye.

Whelp - A young offspring of a dog, wolf or similar animal.

Whelping - To give birth to a whelp or whelps.

ARRIVAL AND HOUSETRAINING

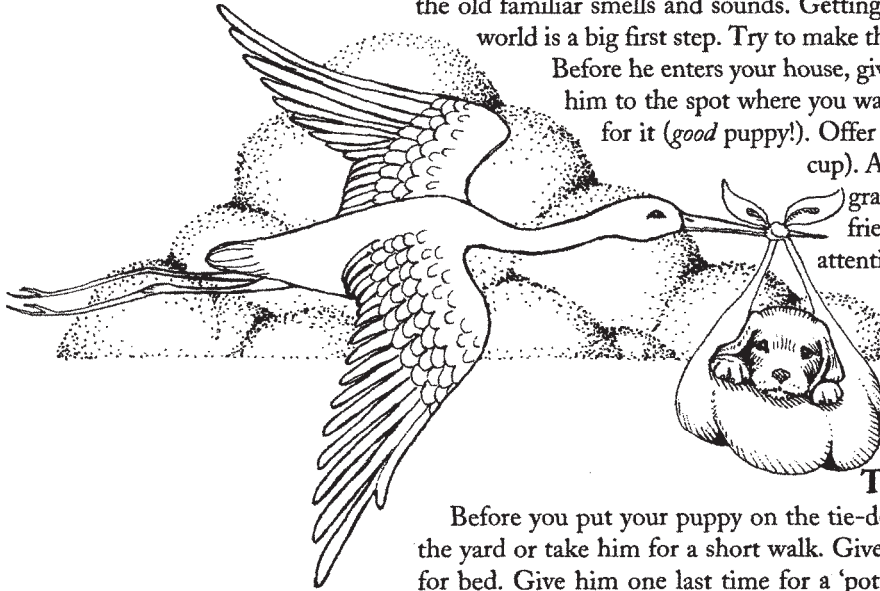
Arrival

How exciting . . . Guide Dogs has called you to make arrangements for delivery of your puppy. He is finally arriving!! He will be sharing the next 12 to 16 months with you and your family.

While this is very exciting for you, please realize that your home and family are new experiences for your pup. Keep in mind that he has just left his kennel, his brothers and sisters, and all the old familiar smells and sounds. Getting used to becoming a part of your family and his new world is a big first step. Try to make this adjustment as enjoyable as possible for your puppy.

Before he enters your house, give your pup time to go to the bathroom outside. Carry him to the spot where you want him to 'go' regularly. If he does relieve, praise him for it (*good puppy!*). Offer him a drink of water and some puppy food (1/2 to 1 cup). Allow him to explore, meet people and the family pet(s) gradually, at his own pace. Try to keep family members, friends, and other pets from overwhelming the pup with attention.

Do not allow him free run of the house yet. He may get into trouble by accident. He needs affection, a lot of rest, and time to adjust to his new environment. Training lessons (other than house breaking) can wait four or five days.



That Evening . . .

Before you put your puppy on the tie-down or in his crate for the evening, play with him in the yard or take him for a short walk. Give him enough exercise just to get him tired and ready for bed. Give him one last time for a 'potty' break. **PRAISE HIM** when he is finished ("good boy!" . . . "atta puppy!").

Now, your puppy has been exercised and has 'done his business'. Spend a minute or two soothing and quieting him down if he needs it. Take him to the crate or the area you picked for his 'bed'. While talking to him in a soothing voice, place him gently in the crate. If you use a 'bed' for him, make sure he can comfortably turn around while on his tie-down.

You may wish to place a Nylabone with him to make him comfortable and give him something to do if he wakes up in the middle of the night.

Close the door on the crate, turn out the light, and quietly leave the room. Better yet, you might want to be ready for bed also and go to sleep. You're going to want to catch all the sleep you can!

If your puppy starts to cry, **DO NOT** go to him for comfort. That will only teach him that crying will bring rewards.

It is all right to quietly tell him: "It's OK pup, I'm here. Now go to sleep", but do not pet or pamper him.

Your puppy may very well cry for a long time. **IGNORE IT!** This may be hard to do, but — **IGNORE IT!** Soon the puppy will figure out that crying does not change his situation, and he'll get tired and go to sleep. This probably won't happen any longer than the first few nights . . . so . . . perhaps you should plan to be a bit tired (and a bit grouchy?) for a few days . . .

Helpful Hints

- Be sure that the 'bed' you pick for your pup is a **SAFE** place. You don't want him to get his paw or collar caught in the middle of the night.
- A ticking clock or softly playing radio may help keep your puppy quiet.
- Do not place items in his crate or bed that your puppy can shred or accidentally swallow.



with age and malnourishment. It is also more difficult to assess dehydration in obese animals. In these circumstances, feel the gums; if they feel dry and sticky, your dog is probably dehydrated.

NOTE: If she is drooling, gums may feel moist even though she's actually dehydrated.

The Most Common Causes.

Excessive heat exposure and illness—not eating or drinking, vomiting, diarrhea, fever

What You Can Do. A dehydrated dog must be taken to a veterinary hospital for treatment to determine why and how severely she is dehydrated. If she is vomiting or not eating/drinking, she will most likely need fluids either under the skin (subcutaneously) or intravenously. If you aren't sure whether your pet is dehydrated, the safest option is to take your pet to the veterinarian for an examination. You might also try to give your dog an electrolyte-replacement drink like Pedialyte®, but only if she's not vomiting.

Dental Disease, Tooth Damage and Mouth Sores

Dogs rarely complain when they have tooth damage or dental disease, but we dog owners sure know how to complain when their breath smells anything but rosy. Although not life threatening, paying attention to the signs of dental

disease and treating your dog's mouth problems now could prevent him from having bigger issues down the line, because infections starting in the mouth could travel through the bloodstream and cause damage to organs.

Signs and Symptoms.

- Bad breath
- Cracked or broken tooth
- Drooling or difficulty chewing
- Plaque buildup that looks brown or yellow in color
- Recessed, reddened gums or sores in the mouth
- Wanting to eat but then refusing to

The Most Common Causes.

Accidents, injury, lack of regular dental care

What You Can Do. Brush your dog's teeth regularly. Your vet can show you how and give you toothpaste to use. Many dogs get very used to this and even enjoy it. Have your dog's teeth checked during his regular checkups to determine if they need to be cleaned with an ultrasonic cleaner (similar to the one your dentist uses).

Diarrhea

Considering what dogs can ingest on a daily basis, it's a small miracle that diarrhea—an increase in the amount, fluidity or frequency of bowel movements—isn't more common than it tends to be. However, if it lasts for more than 24 hours, call your veterinarian.