

WHY DO DOGS DO THAT?

Suggested Grade Level: Kindergarten-3

Character: Kindness

Relative Subject(s): Language Arts

Objective: To provide children with REAL answers to the curious traits, behavior, language, characteristics and genetics of dogs.

Materials:

- ⊗ "Dogs--True or False?" quiz

Method: Have you ever wondered why dogs do the things they do? What could they be thinking? What are they saying when they smell each other or you? Why do some have short hair and some long hair? Why do they look the way they do? Each dog has a unique personality, one-of-a-kind. One dog likes to cuddle while the other likes to play ball and explore. Another dog may be very protective of your household while another may wag and invite any stranger inside. What makes each dog different?

Every dog was born with a partially predetermined character depending on the heredity of their breed or breeds. Some dogs are workers, some are bred for companions and some may be sports stars. Each dog's experiences since birth have helped mold that personality. These experiences include how the mother raised the litter and at what age each dog left the litter. The experiences a pup has had during the critical periods of development have influenced how your dog may look at the world today and how he chooses to react to it. Here are a few examples:

Why do dogs bark?

It's normal for dogs to bark. Birds sing, cows moo, dogs bark. Too much, too loud and at the wrong time can be a problem. Dogs may be barking for the following reasons:

1. Attention Seeking: "Will somebody please pay attention to me!"
2. Separation Anxiety: "Will my special person please come back?"
3. Lack of Activity: "I'm bored; barking is my recreation. I have nothing else to do."
4. Excitement: "Do I need a reason? I'm just happy excited today."
5. Offensive Threat: "Go away! I'll chase you away."
6. Defensive Alarm: "Get out! Don't come any closer."

Why does my dog prefer my bed to his?

Look at it from the dog's point of view, your bed is probably more comfortable. Besides, it gives your dog a better vantage point (he's able to see more of what is going on) and it smells like you. Your dog may be the only one who really loves the way you smell!

Why do dogs like to dig?

You may like baseball or ballet, your dog likes to dig. For some dogs, it may just be too much fun to dig. There may be other reasons for dogs to dig: to get out of the yard, to get cool, to bury something, to dig things up such as a burrowing mouse or

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mole. Some dogs dig because of boredom or frustration. Some breeds of dogs have historically earned their living by digging and go at it with great tenacity. The fact is, you need to understand your dog to know why he behaves a certain way. And it's fun to figure out why they do the things they do. Reading books and looking up the heredity of your dog will provide great insight into the behavior of your dog.

It's fun to learn about dogs. They are fascinating creatures. Today we are going to get some real answers to some of the questions we all have about our favorite canine friends, but it's impossible to cover all the questions we may have.

What do you want to know about dogs? Take the "Dogs--True or False?" quiz to find out even more answers to the curious things dogs do. The more you know about dogs, the better you will understand their behavior and wonderful place in our lives. Our true and false "test" will help to jumpstart our quest for more answers. You'll be amazed at why your "best friend" acts the way he does!

Call to Action: Post a dog question outside your classroom each day for a week. Give all students in the school a chance to answer. Hang an envelope or place a basket under the question to gather answers. Remind students to play "DOG TRIVIA" each day during the morning announcements. At the beginning of the next week, announce the winner of each question. This activity will help teach other students about the wonderful world of dogs.

Take the "Dogs--True or False?" quiz home. Give the quiz to family members and neighbors. How many did they get right?

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Dog True - False Quiz

1. TRUE. They do not develop spots until later.
2. FALSE. All dogs must obey the leash law. It isn't safe for dogs to run loose.
3. TRUE. A Saint Bernard or Great Dane is very old at nine or ten. Little dogs often live to be sixteen or seventeen.
4. FALSE. These dogs are called boxers because they use their front paws a lot when playing. They are friendly and love to clown around.
5. TRUE. Big dogs have large litters. Tiny dogs usually have only 2 or 3 pups at a time.
6. FALSE. This collar should only be used during supervised training sessions. If left on the dog, it may catch on something and strangle the dog.
7. TRUE. It is descended from the big furry Spitz dog.
8. FALSE. A healthy dog can have a hot dry nose. A sick dog can have a cold wet one.
9. TRUE. They see everything as black, white or gray (like black and white TV).
10. FALSE. This is a habit many dogs retain from when they lived as wild animals and had to eat their food quickly before another animal could take it away.
11. TRUE. They are strong swimmers and the webbed feet help them go faster.
12. TRUE. Only a very short, strong dog could fight a badger in its den.
13. FALSE. Too much bathing is hard on a dog's coat. Two or three times a year is usually enough.
14. TRUE. Fleas contain tapeworm eggs, which hatch when a dog swallows them.
15. TRUE. It hangs forward to form a scoop, which collects and holds the scent of the trail.
16. TRUE. Poodles were used as retrievers in cold water. Most of their hair was trimmed so they could swim faster, but pompoms were left around the joints to keep them warm.
17. TRUE. They can not see, hear or smell.
18. FALSE. Even in the shade, the temperature may soon rise to 140, which is fatal for dogs.
19. TRUE. A hard biscuit will clean the teeth and remove tartar.
20. FALSE. The operation is much simpler if the dog has never been bred.
21. FALSE. All dogs need and love to be brushed.
22. TRUE. Only members of the royal family could own a Pekingese.
23. FALSE. Use affection as a reward. It's non-fattening and free, and you'll always have it with you.
24. FALSE. Close your hand into a fist, and let the dog smell the back of it. An open hand may scare the dog.
25. FALSE. An extra long rope can quickly get hopelessly tangled and dump over Food and water dishes.
26. FALSE. The white of a raw egg is indigestible. It's okay to feed the cooked eggs.
27. FALSE. People and dogs are affected by different germs.
28. FALSE. It usually indicates indigestion or other sickness.
29. TRUE. A dog kept in a warm house will have a thin coat and need protection from The cold.
30. FALSE. It usually indicates indigestion or just plain boredom. Some dogs like the Taste.

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