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Introduction

Dear 4-H'er:

In this Dog Care project you are going to learn where dogs come from, what a healthy dog is and how a dog's body works.

Use this manual. It has been written for you. It gives you information you need to complete the project. You do not have to complete all of this book the first year. You may want to stay in it longer.

General Project Completion Guidelines:

1. Plan your project experience using the project completion guide. This should include:
   - three or more of the activities listed in your project book
   - a project demonstration or talk to your 4-H club

2. Complete a project record book.
Vocabulary Words

Excrete — to get rid of waste material from the body, blood or organs

Digestion — the process of breaking down food into simpler chemical compounds that can be taken into the body.

Ancient — long ago

Jackals — wild dogs living in Africa and Asia

Internal Parasites — worms that live inside an animal’s body

Feces — solid waste left after digestion of food

Urine — liquid waste from a dog’s kidneys

Dispose — to get rid of

Domesticated — helper and companion of people

Breed — a group of dogs which look alike, and have young which look like the parents

Bitch — a female dog

Litter — the young dogs born to a mother (bitch)

Mature dog — more than one year old

Nutrients — food needed for a dog’s health and growth

Bred — mate male and female to produce young

Feral — wild

Species — a class of animals having the same qualities and called by the same name

Circulatory — blood, blood vessels, and heart which move blood around the body

Reproductive — able to give birth to young

Eliminate — to rid the body of waste material
1 Where Did the Dog Come From?

The dog has been an important companion of humans for many thousands of years. In this project unit you will learn how to provide simple care for your dog. You will also see how the dog has become our most important animal companion.

The first dog-like companion of cave people was probably a wolf pup. Thousands of years ago when humans were still wanderers, they caught wolf pups and made pets of them. The grown wolf helped people capture wild animals for food and clothing. The wolf was able to feed from the scraps around the primitive people’s campfire.

We have been working with dogs for at least 12,000 years. In this period of time the dog has been changed and used to help us in many ways.

The ancient Egyptians worshiped a dog-headed god, called Anubis. This creature looked like the jackal, which is a kind of wild dog native to Egypt. It was no doubt tamed by ancient people just as the wolf as, and came to be a companion, helper, and pet.

There were more than a dozen breeds of dogs in ancient Egypt. One looked like a modern dachshund. Another looked like the mastiff and deerhound of today.

According to the famous historian, Herodotus, Egyptian pet dogs, when they died, were given proper burial after a period of mourning by their owners.

Humans became shepherders as they became more civilized. Dogs were trained to help in the care of sheep.

The ancient Greeks bred a hound by mating the common dog to a fox. Hunting with dogs was a favorite sport of the Greek gods. The great men of Greek literature enjoyed the hunt as much as their dogs.

The Greeks began to understand the nature of disease in dogs as well as humans. They knew both “furious” and “dumb” rabies as diseases of dogs. However, they did not understand that the bite of the rabid dog was the cause of the disease in people.

In middle ages, kings and nobles were fond of hunting. They developed many different breeds of dogs to hunt different kind of animals. Greyhounds, poodles, beagles, and spaniels are some of the types of dogs which came into being.

Today, dogs are our most important pet. Dogs also are used for protection and hunting. Dogs are also important to people in medical research who are looking for the cause of various human and animal diseases.
Questions and Things To Do

List things which dogs have done to help people over the years.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5.
How the Dog Helps Man

Dog's first help to early humans was barking. This alarm gave warning of dangerous animals or enemy tribes, especially when people were sleeping.

Discoveries in the waste heaps of ancient people show that families once used the dog for food, at least when they had no other food. This practice continued among primitive people such as the American Indian until recent times. Dogs are eaten today in parts of Asia and Africa.

Dogs also helped people by carrying loads. The Eskimo of the far north learned early that the dog could be trained to pull sleds. In Europe the dog was trained to pull carts. The American Indian used the dog to drag loads just as horses were used for the same work.

The ancient Egyptians and Greeks used dogs in hunting. There were two types of hunting dogs. One kind, like our greyhound, chased its prey by sight. Another kind had a keen sense of smell and hunted by following the scent of its prey. The beagle and bird dog are examples of dogs which hunt by scent.

Dogs are special friends because they naturally protect and guard the family and its other animals. Early people found that the dog could be very helpful in managing and protecting their flocks and herds. Even today, dogs are very important in guarding flocks of sheep on summer pastures. The Australian sheep dog has developed the ability to herd sheep and cattle.

Royalty and people of wealth since before the time of Christ have enjoyed dogs as pets. Perhaps the most important use of the dog for modern man is as friend and companion. Because of the desire to have special qualities such as long hair or small size, dogs have been bred into many different shapes, colors, and appearances. Small dogs such as the poodle, schnauzer, and Shih Tsu have become popular as companions to apartment-dwelling men and women in today's world.

There are more than 400 different breeds of dogs in the world today. Because people have altered the species to suit their needs and fancies, there is more difference among the various breeds of dogs than any other domesticated animal.

A toy breed of dog, such as the chihuahua, may weigh from one to six pounds. A mature Saint Bernard may weigh as much as 200 pounds. Can you imagine two members of the human race, one weighing 50 times as much as the other?

Although there are extreme differences in types of dogs, they all have many similar traits. All dogs require the same type of food: protein, fat, carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals.

All have the same kind of digestive system, circulatory system and reproductive organs.

Every dog has hair on its body. Some, like the Yorkshire terrier, have very long hair. Others, like the chihuahua, have very short hair.

Every dog has the same number of teeth, the same number of toes, and exactly the same set of bones in its skeleton.
Questions and Things To Do

1. Make a chart listing different breeds and types of dogs which you see in your community. Breed or type, Hunting or Pet, Approximate Weight

2. Visit five households in your neighborhood that have dogs. Find out how many dogs there are in each household, whether the dogs are working (hunting, coon dog, bird dog) or pet.

3. Ask your parents or librarian to help you find a book or article describing a heroic act by a dog, such as saving a person’s life or by protecting someone from attack by a wild animal or human. Write a short story of the dog’s act below.
The dog’s body is very complicated. In order for the dog to run, his muscles must contract and relax. Muscles must have bones to pull against. Muscles and skeleton together are called the musculoskeletal system.

A muscle is made of millions of cells which must have food and oxygen. Food for these cells is brought by blood. The blood is carried all around the body through blood vessels. A pump, called the heart, drives the blood through the blood vessels. This system is called the circulatory system.

Cells produce waste which the body must eliminate. The waste is excreted through kidneys, lungs, and skin. These organs make up the excretory system.

Food which the dog eats must be processed into simple elements which can be used by the body cells. This way of using dog food, meat, table scraps or whatever your dog eats is called digestion.

The digestive system begins at the dog’s lips and finishes at its tail with an organ called the anus. A part of what the dog eats cannot be digested and used. This waste, together with some by-products and other waste products, is called feces. It is excreted or removed through the anus.

Oxygen is necessary for the life of every cell in the body. It is brought into the body through air passages leading from the nose through the head and neck. Oxygen is separated from other parts of air and combined with the blood in a system called the respiratory system. (This system also helps get rid of some wastes from cells such as carbon dioxide.)

Around this whole group of connected systems is a very complex organ called the skin. It protects the dog and the various systems from heat, cold, injury, bacteria, and many harmful forces.

As you progress through the series of books on dog care and training, you will study about these systems in more detail. Each book is designed to help you learn about one particular system. The knowledge you gain from each book will help you understand your own dog better. There will be many activities which you can do with your dog to measure its health.
Questions and Things To Do

1. Name two things other than food which the dog must have to live.
   a. ______________________________________
   b. ______________________________________

2. Name a disease of dogs which occurs in each of the following systems.
   a. respiratory system _______________________
   b. urinary system ___________________________
   c. circulatory system _________________________
   d. musculoskeletal system ____________________

3. Estimate how long a dog might live if deprived of:
   a. oxygen _________________________________
   b. water _________________________________
   c. food _________________________________
Only a few things are needed for your dog to be healthy. In this section we will discuss these needs and suggest how you can keep your dog in good health.

Food and water are most important for your dog’s well being. Food is usually purchased in a can or package. In the next section you will learn more about how much and how often to feed your dog. The amount and quality of the food you give your dog will have a great deal to do with his health. Water is the single most important item which your dog takes into his body. Without water your pet will soon die. Be sure your dog can get fresh clean water at all times.

Shelter of some kind is also important. Today’s domestic dog is much different from the jackal or other wild creatures who were our dog’s ancestors. Large dogs and those which spend most of their lives outdoors can very well stay in an outside dog house. It needs only to be big enough for the dog to stretch out in, high enough off the ground to keep water from running in, and sturdy enough to keep wind and rain from getting in. It also should have a removable roof so it can be easily cleaned.

Many modern dogs have become house pets and are kept indoors all the time. They, too, do best when they have a box, basket or other place to call home. If this is provided, you will your dog will stay in its private area of the house when sleeping and resting.

Health care. A dog can get diseases just as humans do. In order to keep your pet healthy, you the master, must take it to the veterinarian to get the proper vaccinations at the right time. Your dog needs to be protected against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, and rabies. Any of these diseases means certain death for your pet. These are the major diseases for which vaccination is available. In special situations your dog’s doctor, the veterinarian, may want your pet to have some other protection. He will examine your dog for internal and external parasites and help you get rid of them.

An important part of health care is keeping your pet clean. This means regular brushing and bathing of the hair coat. It also means keeping the bedding and house clean. Outdoor dogs often get fleas and lice. Good care of the skin, hair and bedding helps to control these pests.

Your dog’s waste products — urine and feces — can spread disease to other dogs and sometimes to people. Part of your responsibility for your dog includes disposing of these waste products so they are not harmful to others.

The dog is one of only a few of our domesticated animals which is able to return affection. Dogs need to be loved. If the owner or master shows affection for his or her pet, the dog will return that affection.

Part of loving and caring for a dog is the training which the owner gives it. Dogs, like children, can develop bad habits if not given training in how to behave around people and other animals. Both you and your dog will be happier if your pet is trained to obey your commands.
Questions and Things To Do

1. Answer the following questions about your dog, or a neighbor's, if you do not have one:

   a. How often it is fed? Watered?

   b. Where does it sleep?

   c. What does the dog weigh? Is it too fat? Not fat enough? Just right?

   d. Is the hair coat thin and falling out in patches ________, harsh and stiff to the touch ________, smooth and silky ________?

   e. Are the eyes cloudy and dull ________, with matter in the corners ________, or bright and clean ________?

   f. Are the teeth coated with dark brown scale ________, broken or missing ________, clean and glistening white ________?

   g. Has your dog been vaccinated against rabies ________, hepatitis ________, distemper ________, leptospirosis ________?

   h. Where does your dog deposit its waste? In the back yard ________? In public park or street ________? On neighbor's yard ________?
What Do Dogs Eat and Why?

One of the first things you learned about your dog was that he or she liked to eat. Food is very important for the well being of your dog. You have a great deal of control over the health of your dog by the way you feed him or her.

How often should you feed your dog? Young dogs, especially those just weaned from their mothers, may need to be fed two or three times a day. As the dog becomes full grown it needs to be fed once, or at most two times daily. Feeding in the evening just before the family sits down to eat its evening meal is a good idea. A dog who has just eaten won't be at the table begging for food and making a nuisance of itself.

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<tr>
<th>DRY</th>
<th>SEMI-MOIST</th>
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<td>.5 oz.</td>
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Your mature dog needs this amount of one of these kinds of dog food every day for each pound of body weight. If it is a puppy or young growing dog, it will need two or three times this much to grow properly. If it is a bitch (female) due to have puppies, she will need about 1/5 more feed. If your bitch is nursing a litter of puppies, she will need two to three times as much as a full-grown dog. Dogs which are working hard, such as hunting dogs or those in police work need more food. You may meet their needs by increasing the amount of feed or by adding raw hamburger or some source of fat such as corn oil.

Commercial dog food usually has 43 or more nutrients which your dog needs for growth and health. As you learn more about feeding your dog, you will probably find it will like one kind of food better than another.

You also need to keep an eye on your dog's fur, see whether he is gaining or losing weight, and how he feels on a particular dog food. It may be necessary to switch to another dog food to find one which keeps your dog in the best shape. You may also want to add some things to the commercial food, such as raw meat or fat, to provide some special item which your dog needs for good health.
Questions and Things To Do

1. Go to the grocery store and list all the different brands of dog food. At the top of the page place three headings, dry, semi-moist and canned. Write in the proper column what type each dog food is.

2. Make a list of the different ingredients (corn, grain, fat, meal, etc.) found on each label of three different dog foods. What does this list of contents tell you about your dog's willingness to eat a particular dog food?

3. Assume that you have a young growing dog weighing 25 pounds and a mature dog weighing 40 pounds. Using the information in the chapter, figure out how much dry, semi-moist, and canned dog food is needed to feed your dog properly.
Your Dog—A Good Citizen

In this project you have learned how the dog has changed. Humans have molded the dog into an ideal companion and helper. In today's modern world the dog is no longer a wild creature capturing food and running at large. People have brought the dog into larger communities called cities. Here, the behavior of the dog in its wild state is not tolerated.

People now provide food for the dog. We take care of most of the dog's needs such as shelter and protection. The dog must be taken outside to a park or yard where it can exercise and get rid of its wastes. For all of these needs the dog relies on humans.

As people have become city dwellers, they have required less living space. To live in smaller areas, we have bred dogs that are smaller and more adaptable to indoor living. Neighbors in apartments may not enjoy dogs as much as you do. Your pet can and should be trained to respect others' right to quiet, especially at night.

Getting rid of your dog's wastes is also an important need, especially in cities where yards and lawns are small. If you start training your dog while young, he or she can easily learn to defecate and urinate in a place where the wastes can be gotten rid of easily. If near a sewer or street drain, the wastes can be washed away with water every day. If on a concrete run in the back of your house, wastes can be picked up and put with the garbage for hauling away. Dog wastes are a possible source of disease for other dogs and people, so the waste should be taken care of every day in a safe way.

Dogs which are abandoned by their owners are a serious problem. Cities spend large sums of money picking up these dogs from the streets. They have to be fed and cared for until claimed by someone or killed. At the edge of cities where there are fields and wooded areas, these unwanted pets return to a wild state and are called feral dogs. These animals become like wild dogs and prey on other animals such as cattle, sheep, and pigs which may be in the area. They may also attack people, especially children.

If you are thinking about getting a dog, your responsibility is to plan how you are going to take care of your pet.

Some questions you should ask yourself before getting a dog:

Will it be comfortable in the space of my home?

Who will take care of it during the day while I am at school?

Can I afford to buy feed and pay for the health care which it needs?

Will the dog be bothersome to my neighbors?

Considering these things before getting a new dog will help you make a wise choice.
Questions and Things To Do

1. Ask your parents or librarian to help you find a book on zoonotic diseases. List five diseases of man that can be spread by dogs.

2. Visit your city or county dog shelter. Find the answers to the following questions:
   
a. How many dogs per year are picked up by employees of the shelter?
   b. How much money does it cost to operate the animal shelter for a year?
   c. How many dogs from the shelter are taken for pets each year?
   d. Does the shelter have a plan for spaying females which are released to citizens for pets? Describe the plan.