

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

FOR 7-11 YEAR OLDS





ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Learning how to be responsible is part of growing up. Many families get a dog without fully understanding and appreciating the responsibility that comes with it.

Pupils are encouraged to test their knowledge, explore, discuss and form opinions, as they develop an understanding of what it means to be a responsible dog owner, and an awareness of the commitment involved in owning a dog.

This is a quiz-based activity to test and expand pupils' existing knowledge. It can be used as part of a PSHE or Citizenship topic about rights and responsibilities and as a follow-up activity after a visit from one of our Education and Community Officers.

Age range: 7-11 years
Subjects: PSHE / Citizenship



You will need:

 Quiz PowerPoint slides and/or quiz worksheet for each pupil.

HOW TO USE THIS ACTIVITY

As a whole class – use the PowerPoint slides to pose the questions, discuss the answers and then explore in further detail using the explanatory notes provided.

Individually - ask pupils to complete the quiz worksheet, then as a class, explore and discuss the answers in more detail.

Teacher's Notes

The Quiz

These are the statements, answers and extra explanatory notes to accompany the quiz PowerPoint.

	Statement	Answer	Explanatory notes
1	The minimum number of walks a dog needs each day.	2	Dogs need daily exercise to keep fit and healthy and to explore/sniff/socialise. They also need the opportunity to go to the toilet. Exercising your dog twice a day, and for the appropriate amount of time for that breed/type/specific dog is critical to achieving overall welfare.
2	It is the law that every dog has an _____ attached to their collar or harness.	ID tag	Any dog in a public place must have the name and address of their owner (and we suggest phone number too) on an ID tag attached to their collar. If someone finds a dog, this will help them to be returned to their owners. Even if the dog is microchipped, it is still the law that they wear an ID tag.
3	The number of times per year a dog should visit the vet for their vaccination booster and a general check-up	1	Vaccinating your dog stops them from catching and spreading deadly diseases to other dogs, meaning the whole of the dog population is a little safer! You should also ask the vet to carry out a general health check during this appointment.
4	Dogs need to be _____ 3 to 4 times per week. It is important to prevent their fur from matting or becoming knotted and tangled.	Groomed	It not only prevents knots and matting but gets rid of loose fur and dirt/things that may have got stuck in the coat. Many dogs find it very soothing too.

Teacher's Notes

The Quiz

	Statement	Answer	Explanatory notes
5	Dogs need to be _____ using treats and praise so they know how we would like them to behave.	Trained	Pet dogs don't need to be obedience champions, dance to music or speed around an agility course. Most owners need their dog to sit when asked, walk calmly on a loose lead, come back when called, and to settle down. And they want their dog to do these things even when there are tempting picnics around, kids playing football, or other dogs walking past. All dogs need teaching the basic behaviours, with reward-based training, required for daily life.
6	All dogs need lots of _____ and _____.	Love Affection	Dogs are sentient beings - they have feelings like us. They enjoy our company and enjoy feeling loved. It is very important to remember, however, that dogs like to receive love and affection in different ways to humans. E.g. Hugging is not a natural behaviour for a dog and can make them feel trapped and worried. We should only express love and affection in a way that is appropriate and comfortable for a dog, and that means we need to learn lots about dog behaviour and communication before we get one, to ensure we behave safely and fairly.
7	How often a dog needs to be treated for fleas and worms.	Every 1-3 months	Treatments can come in different forms but should be given every 1 to 3 months to prevent dogs from catching and spreading these parasites. Where possible, it is always best to buy this treatment from your vet to ensure it is a good quality product.
8	It is important to consider the _____ of dog before getting one.	Breed	You should always research the type or breed of dog before considering to buy/adopt. This is because each breed has different characteristics and varying needs in terms of exercise, food, training, enrichment, and susceptibility to health issues, which can affect pet insurance costs etc. Selecting the right breed or type of dog for you and your lifestyle is critical to making a success of responsible ownership.

Teacher's Notes

The Quiz

	Statement	Answer	Explanatory notes
9	All dogs need a selection of _____ to play with so that they don't become bored or frustrated	Toys	Dogs are intelligent animals so it is important to provide them with safe and suitable opportunities to exercise their minds as well as their bodies, such as playing with or chewing toys, during every stage of life. Rotating toys is a good idea so they don't become boring, as dogs often enjoy novelty. Swapping toys weekly means your dog is likely to stay excited and interested in them!
10	A dog can live, on average, for between ___ and ___ years.	10 15	Life span can depend on the size/breed of a dog. However, a dog whose needs have been well met is likely to live longer than a dog who has not been well looked after.
11	Dogs need a comfortable ___ to relax and sleep on.	Bed	Dogs need their own space to relax and have some alone time, so it's important they are given a comfortable place to rest that is a 'dog-only zone'. Dogs sleep for around 16 hours a day and should be left completely alone when resting or sleeping wherever they may choose to do that, even if it's somewhere in the house other than their bed.
12	The maximum number of hours Dogs Trust believes a dog should be left alone.	4	Dogs enjoy company. They can become insecure or anxious if left for too long. They can also become bored, which may lead to other problems such as chewing furniture! They do this to alleviate both boredom and anxiety. It is NOT naughty and should never be punished. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure their dog doesn't feel the need to do this, as well as to provide a selection of suitable toys that their dog can enjoy chewing and playing with.

Teacher's Notes

Extension Activities

Some of the statements in the quiz are essential for a dog to be happy and healthy. As a class discuss and explore how a dog might feel emotionally or physically in each of the scenarios below.

Scenario	Feelings
The dog is not walked every day.	Bored, frustrated, unconfident
The dog gets lost but has no collar or tag and is not microchipped so cannot be returned to its owners.	Afraid, worried, stressed
The dog is not taken to the vet for its annual health check or vaccinations.	Sick and unwell
The dog doesn't have any toys to chew or play with.	Bored and frustrated
The dog is never treated for fleas and worms.	Sick, unwell, itchy, uncomfortable
The dog is never shown any love or attention	Lonely, sad, bored, frustrated, confused, unconfident
The dog doesn't have its own safe space to sleep.	Worried, stressed

A responsible dog owner will do all these things and much more to give their dog a happy and healthy life.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Do you know what it takes to be a responsible dog owner?



TASK:

Can you complete the following statements, using the answers from the box below?

Statement	Answer
1. The minimum number of walks a dog needs each day.	
2. It is the law that every dog has an _____ attached to their collar.	
3. The number of times per year a dog should visit the vet for their vaccination booster and a general check-up.	
4. Dogs need to be _____ 3 to 4 times per week. It is important to prevent knots/matting in their fur.	
5. Dogs need to be _____ using treats and praise so they know how we would like them to behave.	
6. All dogs need lots of _____ and _____.	
7. How often a dog needs to be treated for fleas and worms.	
8. It is important to consider the _____ of dog before getting one to ensure you can meet all of it needs.	
9. All dogs need a selection of _____ to play with so that they don't become bored or frustrated.	
10. A dog can live, on average, for between ___ and ___ years.	
11. Dogs need a comfortable _____ to relax and sleep on.	
12. The maximum number of hours Dogs Trust believes a dog should be left alone.	

toys 4 2 groomed trained ID Tag 1 breed
love affection every 1-3 months 10 15 bed