



Caring for my dog

For 7-11 year olds

PSHE | Citizenship

learnwithdogstrust.org.uk

Teacher's notes

About this activity

Learning how to be responsible is part of growing up and so it's important to fully consider all the responsibilities that are involved with owning and caring for a dog. 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 and Citizenship

You will need:

- 🐾 Quiz PowerPoint slides and explanatory notes
- 🐾 Optional quiz worksheet for each pupil

Optional extension activities:

- 🐾 'Scenario and feelings' 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.

Extension activities

Activity: Scenario and feelings

Some of the statements in the quiz are essential for a dog to be happy and healthy. How might a dog feel emotionally or physically if some of their needs are not met? List any feelings a dog might feel in each of the scenarios below.

For younger or less able pupils there is a pupil sheet which includes suggested feelings to be used as prompts.



Teacher's notes

The quiz

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

Statement	Answer	Explanatory Notes
How frequently should dogs be taken on a walk?	Everyday (Depending on the dog's needs)	Regular exercise is important so that dogs stay fit and healthy, and all dogs benefit from the chance to explore, sniff, and socialise when out on a walk. The amount and type of exercise needed is different for every dog as every dog is an individual, just as humans are. It can also vary from day to day and is likely to change throughout their lifetime based on a variety of factors, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• age/stage of life• physical health and level of mobility• the way they feel about the world around them, such as whether they're confident or fearful• how confident their owner feels about exercising them outside and where other people and animals may be present
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.

Statement	Answer	Explanatory Notes
<p>The number of times per year a dog should visit the vet for their vaccination booster and a general check-up</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Dogs need to be _____ 3 to 4 times per week. It is important to prevent their fur from matting or becoming knotted and tangled.</p>	<p>Groomed</p>	<p>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 relaxing too, although it's important to always be gentle and to give dogs time to get used to being groomed.</p>
<p>Dogs need to be _____ using treats and praise so they know how we would like them to behave.</p>	<p>Trained</p>	<p>It's important that dogs are taught some key, basic behaviours in order to keep both them and others (dogs and people) safe. Ideally, dogs need to learn to sit when asked, walk calmly on a loose lead, come back when called, and to calmly settle at certain times. All dogs need to be taught these basic behaviours with reward-based training - this means they are taught using treats, praise, and other rewards. Dogs should never be shouted at or punished as this does not help them to learn, and is likely to cause them to feel worried or scared.</p>

Statement	Answer	Explanatory Notes
<p>All dogs need lots of ____ and _____.</p>	<p>Love, Affection</p>	<p>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. Gentle strokes might be a more appropriate way to show love and affection. We should only express love and affection in a way that is appropriate and comfortable for a dog. This means we need to learn lots about dog behaviour and communication to ensure we behave safely and kindly.</p>
<p>How often a dog needs to be treated for fleas and worms.</p>	<p>Every 1-3 months</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>It is important to consider the ____ of dog before getting one.</p>	<p>Breed</p>	<p>You should always research the type or breed of dog you are interested in before considering to buy/adopt. This is because each breed has different characteristics and varying needs in terms of exercise, food, training, and enrichment. Some breeds are also more likely to experience 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 dog ownership.</p>

Statement	Answer	Explanatory Notes
<p>All dogs need a selection of _____ to play with so that they don't become bored or frustrated.</p>	<p>Toys</p>	<p>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. It's also important to understand that it is normal for dogs to rip or destroy toys as often that is what they think the toys are for, and that is how they enjoy playing with them.</p>
<p>A dog can live, on average, for between __ and __ years.</p>	<p>10, 15</p>	<p>Owning a dog is a long-term commitment and how long a dog lives for can depend on their size and breed.</p> <p>Dogs are worthy of love and care throughout all of their life stages.</p>
<p>Dogs need a comfortable ____ to relax and sleep on.</p>	<p>Bed</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The maximum number of hours Dogs Trust believes a dog should be left alone.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Dogs enjoy company and can become worried 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. Owners need to take steps to ensure their dog feels safe and calm when left alone.</p>

Caring for my dog

Can you complete the following statements?

Questions	Answer
How frequently should dogs be taken on a walk?	
It is the law that every dog has an _____ attached to their collar or harness.	
The number of times per year a dog should visit the vet for their vaccination booster and a general check-up	
Dogs need to be _____ 3 to 4 times per week. It is important to prevent their fur from matting or becoming knotted and tangled.	
Dogs need to be _____ using treats and praise so they know how we would like them to behave.	
All dogs need lots of _____ and _____.	
How often a dog needs to be treated for fleas and worms.	
It is important to consider the _____ of dog before getting one.	
All dogs need a selection of _____ to play with so that they don't become bored or frustrated	
A dog can live, on average, for between ___ and ___ years.	
Dogs need a comfortable _____ to relax and sleep on.	
The maximum number of hours Dogs Trust believes a dog should be left alone.	

Caring for my dog

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

Questions	Answer
How frequently should dogs be taken on a walk?	
It is the law that every dog has an _____ attached to their collar or harness.	
The number of times per year a dog should visit the vet for their vaccination booster and a general check-up	
Dogs need to be _____ 3 to 4 times per week. It is important to prevent their fur from matting or becoming knotted and tangled.	
Dogs need to be _____ using treats and praise so they know how we would like them to behave.	
All dogs need lots of _____ and _____.	
How often a dog needs to be treated for fleas and worms.	
It is important to consider the _____ of dog before getting one.	
All dogs need a selection of _____ to play with so that they don't become bored or frustrated	
A dog can live, on average, for between ___ and ___ years.	
Dogs need a comfortable _____ to relax and sleep on.	
The maximum number of hours Dogs Trust believes a dog should be left alone.	

toys

4

everyday

groomed

trained

ID tag

1

love

affection

every 1-3 months

10

15

bed

Caring for my dog

How might a dog feel emotionally or physically if some of their needs are not met?

List any feelings a dog might feel in each of the scenarios below.

Scenario	Feelings
The dog is not walked every day	
The dog gets lost but has no collar or tag and is not microchipped so cannot be returned to its owners	
The dog is not taken to the vet for their annual health check or vaccinations.	
The dog doesn't have any toys to chew or play with.	
The dog never receives any flea or worming treatment.	
The dog is never shown any love or attention.	
The dog doesn't have their own safe space to sleep.	

Caring for my dog

How might a dog feel emotionally or physically if some of their needs are not met?

Use any of the feelings from the boxes below to show how a dog might feel in each of the scenarios.

Scenario	Feelings
The dog is not walked every day	
The dog gets lost but has no collar or tag and is not microchipped so cannot be returned to their owner	
The dog is not taken to the vet for their annual health check or vaccinations.	
The dog doesn't have any toys to chew or play with.	
The dog is never treated for fleas and worms.	
The dog is never shown any love or affection.	
The dog doesn't have their own safe space to sleep.	

bored

frustrated

unconfident

stressed

afraid

worried

sick

unwell

bored

itchy

uncomfortable

sad

lonely

confused