Dog Care & Training

The Dog Care and Training Project Is . . .

Dogs and young people just seem to belong together. There are times when your dog is your best friend. Your pet is happy when you're happy, and your pet always seems ready to listen when you need to talk.

Owning a dog is a big job. The 4-H Dog Care and Training Project helps you learn to take care of a dog. Owning a dog means more than feeding it whenever you remember. A healthy dog should be fed at scheduled times. This means when you go out of town for a weekend campout or go for a week to Grandma's, you have to find someone to feed and care for your pet. Sometimes this is not easy. Sometimes it may even mean that you cannot take your trip. But this is part of what you pledge to do when you own an animal.

To take part in this project, you or your family should either own a dog or you should be able to “borrow” one and be in charge of it for at least 3 months.

Things You’ll Learn

In the Dog Care and Training Project you'll learn the history of dogs and how they work for man. You'll learn how to choose the right dog for you and how to make sure your dog stays healthy. You have probably seen dogs who chase cars, bark at people, or run into the street and do not obey commands. This is dangerous for the dog and for other people, so obedience training is one of the first things you'll learn.
Things You Can Do
Some of the things you can do are:

• Practice good grooming. Keep your pet free of odor, dirt, fleas, and ticks.
• Take your dog to a veterinarian to be vaccinated and dewormed. Learn about dog diseases and protect your pet against them.
• Show your dog in a county 4-H dog show or in other supervised shows.
• Teach your dog tricks. Use him or her to entertain friends or younger children.
• Keep records on all of your project activities.

Test Your Dog I.Q.
Mark the following statements if you agree or disagree.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. It is okay to feed your dog table scraps because what's good for people is good for dogs.</td>
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<td>2. A grown dog should be fed only once a day.</td>
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<td>3. Chicken and turkey bones are good for dogs to chew on.</td>
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<td>4. Horse meat provides a complete dog food.</td>
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<td>5. The command “heel” means your dog should walk close to your foot, usually your left foot.</td>
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<td>6. A fat dog is proof that the owner is caring for and feeding the animal correctly.</td>
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<td>7. The American Kennel Club recognizes seven major dog groups: hound, working, terrier, toy, sporting, nonsporting, and herding.</td>
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<td>8. A shiny hair coat means a dog is in good health.</td>
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<td>9. A “litter” is all the puppies born to a mother dog in one group.</td>
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<td>10. A dog has five toes, counting the dew claw.</td>
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<td>11. A puppy is any dog less than one year old.</td>
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<td>12. Everyone loves dogs and won't mind if your dog jumps on him or her.</td>
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<td>13. To “vaccinate” means to give an injection to prevent your dog from getting a disease.</td>
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<td>14. Rabies has been stamped out due to modern vaccination programs.</td>
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How to score:
12 to 14 correct—You are a near genius and yours is a lucky dog!
8 to 11 correct—You have good basic dog-sense. Keep up the good work!
5 to 7 correct—You are trainable and, with a little work, your dog might keep you!
0 to 4 correct—Oops, quick, before it’s too late, enroll in the 4-H Dog Care Project!

4-H Dog Care and Training Activities of _______________________

_________________ (your name)

_________________ (date)
In an encyclopedia or dog book or on the Internet, look up the kind of dog you have. If your dog is a mixed breed, find a picture or description that looks most like him or her. Use the book to complete the following story.

______________________________________________________, owned by (dog’s name) ____________________________________________________________, is a (owner’s name) ______________________________. He/she was born (breed) on or about __________________________. His/her mother’s name was __________________________. (date) (name) She was a ______________________________. His/her father’s name was __________________________. (name) He was a ______________________________. (breed) ______________________________ were developed to (dog’s breed) (according to your book, explain what kind of work your dog’s breed is especially good for).

This is a description of ______________________________. He/she is ______________________________, stands about (dog’s name) (color) ____________ inches high and is ____________ inches long. He/she weighs about ____________ pounds.

His/her distinguishing marks are ____________________________________________________________ (list special coloring, spots, oddities about ears or tail, etc.).

One of ______________________________’s favorite things is ______________________________ (dog’s name) (name something your dog likes to do, watch, or play).

I can tell he/she is happy when __________________________________________________________.

My Dog, ____________________________________________ (dog’s name)
Some of the things _________________________ can do when I command are ________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

My dog is (smart, funny). One day he/she ____________________________________________________________________________

(describe something unusual the dog did that was smart or funny)

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

During my 4-H Dog Care and Training Project, I would like to teach _________________________________

(dog’s name)

to _________________________________________________________________________________________

When you complete this activity sheet, ask your 4-H agent for Extension publication YANR-67, “Dog Project Record Sheet.”