

Ideas for Dog Learning Activities

Intermediate Level

Need more ideas for your dog project? There are hundreds of things you can do! This list is organized by topics that match the chapters in the 4-H *Dog Resource Handbook*. You are being asked to complete at least five activities each year. Use this list and your imagination, and then write your ideas in your *Dog Project and Record Book*. Have fun!

Characteristics of Dogs

- Name the four groups in the genera *Canidae*.
- Name the five species in the group *Canis*.
- Identify five characteristics the domestic dog and gray wolf have in common.

Breeds

- Discuss why the AKC divides dog breeds into groups and name the seven groups.
- Select one group of dogs and describe its purpose and function.
- Select one breed of dog from each group and describe their origins and characteristics.
- Select two breeds of dogs and compare their purposes and physical characteristics.
- Discuss the purpose of the Miscellaneous Breeds AKC category.
- Explain how to get an ILP number for a dog. (may need to be moved to different section)

Conformation

- Using correct terminology, describe your dog's conformation.
- Compare the bite of your dog to that of one other dog.
- Find pictures of dogs with three different ear types and label and describe each one.
- Identify one breed having each eye shape.
- Draw five types of tail carriage.
- Find pictures of dogs with three different tail carriages and label each one.
- Explain the kind of topline your dog has.
- Name and describe at least one kind of dog's feet.



Grooming

- Bathe your dog.
- Name and describe the five basic coat types and how to groom them.
- Name five types of grooming equipment and describe the functions.
- Accustom your dog to a grooming table.
- Describe how to trim a dog's nails.
- Visit a groomer to learn more about grooming dogs and the equipment used.

Selection

- Explain the difference between a purebred dog and a cross bred dog, and list the pros and cons of owning each one.
- Explain how to locate a purebred puppy to purchase, and name five questions you should ask a breeder.
- Describe how you would select a puppy.
- Compare the requirements for keeping a dog indoors versus outdoors.
- Describe ten ways to be a responsible dog owner.

Communication and Behavior

- Name and describe three ways dogs communicate.
- Explain why the signs indicating a dog's body posture might vary.
- Use two pictures of your dog to explain the signs of a relaxed dog and the signs of an alert dog.
- Describe active submission and passive submission body postures. Explain what would cause a dog to show them.
- Describe offensive threat and defensive threat body postures. Explain what would cause a dog to show them.
- Describe the body posture of a fear biter.
- Name the three ways dogs give off scents.
- Explain why it is important to know when a dog is stressed and identify at least five signs of stress in dogs, including some you have seen in your own dog.
- Define calming signals and identify five claming signals in dogs.
- Explain the purpose of the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program® and name and describe the ten test items.
- Pass the CGC test with your dog.
- Teach two people how to prevent dog bites.

Puppy Care and Socialization

- Crate train, place train, or housebreak a puppy or dog.
- Identify five ways to keep your puppy or dog safe.
- List five things to expose your puppy to so he will not be afraid.

Beginning Training Techniques

- Define the terms “positive,” “negative,” reinforcement,” and “punishment” when describing the principles of operant conditioning.
- Explain why positive trainers typically do not use positive punishment.
- Describe how to build a relationship with your dog.
- Identify four traits of a good trainer.
- Describe using a bridge and practice using a bridge with your dog.
- Describe using a lure and practice using a lure with your dog.
- Describe using a target and practice using a target with your dog.
- Play the Name Game, the Attention Game, or the Set Up Game.

Obedience

- Describe four obedience training tips.
- List five types of appropriate clothing for an obedience class.
- Describe two types of appropriate and two types of inappropriate collars for obedience classes
- Show your dog in the appropriate obedience class.
- Enroll in an obedience class.
- Train your dog to do any of the novice exercises described in the *Dog Resource Handbook*.
- Show in a team class or in a rally obedience competition.
- Help another member learn rally.

Judging

- Learn the novice score sheet and the rally score sheets.
- Describe and demonstrate handler (not dog) errors in any of the judging exercises as outlined in the *Dog Resource Handbook*.

Showmanship

- Show your dog in a showmanship class.

- Interview a showmanship judge to learn what he or she looks for when judging.
- Attend an AKC show that has Junior Showmanship.
- List five kinds of appropriate clothing for a showmanship class.
- Keep a scrapbook of your showmanship activities this project year.

Performance Events

- Explain the importance of dogs eating a high-quality diet and being in good condition to compete in performance events.
- Name and describe three performance events.
- Participate in at least one performance event.
- Teach your dog the dog walk, the hoop tunnel, or the crawl tunnel.
- Build a high jump and use it with your dog.
- Build a set of weave poles and use them with your dog.
- Compete in an agility trial or participate in drill team.

Working Dogs

- Invite a K-9 Unit or a Search and Rescue team to give a presentation at a 4-H club meeting or countywide event.
- Interview a K-9 police officer or a Search and rescue team member and report what you learned.
- Find more information about assistance dogs from the library and on the Internet.
- Search the Assistance Dogs International, Inc. website and identify a minimum of five assistance dog organizations, their locations, and their contact persons.
- Tour an assistance dogs facility.
- Work with your local Lions Club to help raise money for blind people.
- Give a demonstration or show your assistance dog at your county judging or fair.
- Invite someone to talk to your club about assistance dogs.
- Show your assistance dog at the Ohio State Fair.
- Describe five benefits of animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy.
- Research The Delta Society, Research Therapy Dogs International, Inc., or Research Therapy Dogs, Inc. online.
- Discuss the difference between animal-assisted activities and animal-assisted therapy.
- Join a 4-H PetPALS Club.
- If certified, visit a nursing home or healthcare facility with your dog.
- Fulfill the requirements to be certified by a therapy dog organization.

Showing Your Project Dog

- Plan to attend or help organize a dog show.
- Write a thank you letter to the show committee complimenting them on the show.
- Name and describe the six aspects of good sportsmanship that are listed in the *Dog Resource Handbook*.
- Show your dog at a show and go.

Anatomy and Physiology

- Describe the function of five body parts of the dog.
- Identify 5 to 10 parts of the dog skeleton.
- Name the three basic head shapes, describe them, and identify one breed of dog having each one.
- Show five parts of the foot using your dog.
- Name the kinds of teeth and the number and purpose of each kind.
- Name and describe the functions of the five systems of the dog.
- Compare a dog's sense of smell and sense of sight to those of a human.

Health

- Establish a veterinarian/client/patient relationship (VCRP).
- Examine your dog and describe 5 to 10 signs of him being healthy.
- Name and describe 5 to 10 signs of an unhealthy or sick dog.
- After discussing vaccinations with your veterinarian, outline your dog's vaccination program and the purpose of each vaccine.
- Explain how the rabies virus can be transmitted to humans.
- Name three viral diseases to which dogs are susceptible.
- Research one disease transmissible from dogs to humans and record what you learned.
- Research local laws about required vaccinations for dogs.
- Describe five common internal parasites found in dogs.
- Discuss how heartworms can be fatal to dogs and how to prevent them.
- Describe the life cycle of the flea and how to prevent and control flea infestations.
- Describe how to control lice.
- Name three kinds of ticks affecting dogs and two diseases dogs can get from them, and how to remove a tick from a dog.
- Describe how ringworm is transmitted.

- Brush your dog's teeth and discuss when you should have your dog's teeth professionally cleaned.
- Describe the purpose of anal glands and name two signs of impacted anal sacs.
- Explain why bloat is a life-threatening condition, three symptoms of bloat, and how best to prevent it.
- Take a Red Cross First Aid Class for Pets.

Nutrition and Exercise

- Name the six categories of nutrients.
- Name five factors that affect how much water a dog drinks each day.
- Measure and record how much water your dog drinks each day for five days.
- Explain three functions of carbohydrates.
- Explain why too much dietary fat may cause obesity in dogs.
- Name three functions of protein.
- Compare the advantages and disadvantages of feeding dry, canned, and semi-moist dog food.
- Name three feedstuffs you should not feed your dog and explain why not to feed them.
- Discuss five reasons why it is important for your dog to get exercise.
- Exercise with your dog for one month and record time spent and types of exercising.
- Complete the reading Dog Food Labels activity and quiz in the Dog Care and Welfare section.

Reproduction

- Build a whelping box.
- Prepare a whelping box.
- Name five signs of whelping.
- Explain why it is important to have a good veterinarian/client/patient relationship when you have a pregnant bitch.

Careers

- Investigate two dog-related careers and list the pros and cons of each.
- Interview a person in a dog-related career and report what you learned.