

**Choose from the subheadings below and match it to the correct paragraph on the text below. Don't forget the title!**

Pet care of a dog

Training a dog

Changes in behaviour

Environment

Dog behaviour

Dangers to dogs

Diet

Dogs are hugely popular pets. In fact, there are eight and a half million dogs being kept as pets in the UK alone.

They are known as 'man's best friend', but how should dogs be cared for and what do we actually know about them?

Dogs are omnivores, which means they need a well-balanced diet of meat and plant-based foods. They need one meal a day, unless the vet advises otherwise. Their teeth are well-developed, with sharp incisors for tearing meat, and molars for grinding plant foods.

They must have access to clean, fresh water at all times, or else they are at risk of becoming very poorly.

Dogs need a comfortable, draught-free, clean and quiet environment. They need to be able to sleep, undisturbed.

There needs to be access for them to go outside to the toilet regularly, and have some form of exercise appropriate for their breed, every day. After all, compare the type of walk a St Bernard needs compared to a dachshund!

Dogs need a place where they can go if they are frightened. Dogs have very varied temperaments, or might have been previously mistreated, which means some scare more easily than others.



**Did You Know?**

The common ancestor of dogs is the wolf!

Dogs are intelligent, playful animals, who need to have suitable toys or objects to play with, along with regular exercise. There are 400 different breeds of dog, and each breed has different traits suitable for the purpose of its breed. From herding to hunting, retrieving and tracking, dogs retain instinctive qualities. Herding dogs follow quick commands and whistles; hunting, tracking and retrieving dogs are fast, have strong senses and tend to be easy to command. For these reasons, pet dogs need to be able to play, fetch, run and jump to stay happy and healthy.



If a dog is lying down, not looking at you and turning their face away from you, licking their lips with their ears back, it could be a sign that they are worried.

If a dog is lying down, cowering with their ears flat, teeth showing and their tail down between their legs, it could be displaying signs of being angry or unhappy.

Dogs need rewarding with treats when they have done something well. They should not be shouted at, as they won't understand the reasons for this behaviour. They need consistent, clear instructions.

Dogs are naturally inquisitive and need supervision to ensure their safety at all times, especially during walks in unfamiliar places. Some commonplace items are poisonous to dogs:

- Human foods like chocolate, onions, raisins, grapes and sultanas are very poisonous for dogs, and they can become very ill if they eat these things.
- Slug and rat poison can make dogs very ill and even be fatal for them, resulting in kidney failure, abnormal heart rhythms and sickness.