

Facts and Worksheets for Module 3 of Working With Dogs

Facts for Topic 1: The Role of a Dog Owner

Owning a dog can cost between £16,000 and £31,000 during its lifetime - depending on the size of the dog.

Source: Telegraph.co.uk

There are more than 8.5 million pet dogs owned in the UK.

Source: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Worksheet for Topic 1: The Role of a Dog Owner

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

Activity 1: Before even bringing a dog into your home, you must make some preparations. Explain everything that one must do, in order to ensure they are ready to bring a dog into the home (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

When welcoming a new dog into your home, it is important to be fully prepared for their arrival. This includes having all of the supplies you will require for the dog, as well as having a vet lined up, for an exam. All of this preparation ensures that the dog will have an easy transition into the home.

Activity 2: Explain how to properly groom and bathe your dog, to keep it clean and healthy (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Grooming and bathing is an important part of dog ownership - and even if you have a dog with short hair, the dog will still require brushing, at least once a week. For some dogs, it is important that they see a professional dog groomer regularly.

Activity 3: Explain a few ways that you, as a dog owner, can keep your dog safe (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Safety starts at home, when it comes to caring for a dog, but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't take time and put in the effort to keep the dog safe, when out and about.

Facts for Topic 2: How to Teach Your Dog Basic Commands

More than 90% of dogs in the UK have learned the command to sit.

Source: Pet365.co.uk

It is best to start the training process for dogs, at about 12 weeks of age.

Source: RSPCA.org.uk

Worksheet for Topic 2: How to Teach Your Dog Basic Commands

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

Activity 1: Though we all love to talk to our dogs, do they really understand this? Explain how dogs interpret what we say to them (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Though dogs act as if they can understand exactly what we are saying, it is more likely that they are reacting to something else, such as our tone. Dogs react to our actions and tones - and have a variety of reactions to them. Some of them are positive and some are negative and all of them affect the dog in some way. In some cases, when the interaction is positive, the bond between owner and dog becomes stronger.

Activity 2: Teaching a dog commands is simpler than most people realise. This topic introduced the simplest way to teach commands to a dog and it gave several common commands. Choose five of these commands and explain what they mean and share any information about how to teach the command (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Dogs are made to follow our commands - and they have been doing so for tens of thousands of years. All dogs can learn these commands and the responsibility to teach these commands lies with the owner. With patience and persistence on the part of the owner, there is no reason a dog cannot learn basic commands and good behaviour.

Activity 3: Many dogs are impulsive, but an impulsive dog can either put themselves in danger, or cause harm to people. Give a brief overview of how an owner or trainer can teach an impulsive dog to calm down (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Dogs who are too impulsive, of which many are, can be dangerous to themselves and others. They might run out into traffic, or they might knock children, or even adults, over, in the process. Teaching a dog how to be less impulsive can not only save their lives, it can also improve the relationship one has with their dog.

Facts for Topic 3: Canine Emotions

Whilst your cat hangs out with you for warmth and food, dogs genuinely feel love towards us, whether we come bearing treats, or not.

Source: Readersdigest.co.uk

A dog's brain releases oxytocin, the love hormone, when it interacts with humans and dogs, just the same as a human brain does when we hug or kiss.

Source: Mirror.co.uk

Worksheet for Topic 3: Canine Emotions

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

Activity 1: Before science was able to prove otherwise, explain what the common thought was about the emotional capability of dogs. Who introduced this explanation (allow 10 minutes)?

Advice and Feedback

Before we were able to prove things with modern science, it was common to hear one theory from a respected scientist or philosopher and take it as fact. There were two main thoughts about the emotions of dogs, but one of these beliefs was based on the philosophy of the other.

Activity 2: There are several scientific studies that have been done on canine emotions. Explain some of the specific studies that were presented in this module - and how we know that dogs truly show emotions (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Scientific studies across the globe have looked at how dogs express and process emotions. These studies have been able to show, with a reasonable amount of clarity, that dogs are emotional beings. However, these studies were also able to show that there are certain emotions that humans feel, which dogs cannot.

Activity 3: Talk about the emotions that dogs can express and then explain why owners might believe dogs show guilt, but in actuality, it is the expression of fear (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Dogs can express almost all of the common emotions that people can express. However, dogs are unable to express complex human emotions, such as guilt. Dog owners often believe that their dogs have a “guilty look” or “act guilty”, but in all actuality, a dog is unable to process the feeling of guilt. Instead, it is likely that they are fearful of the punishment they know is coming.

Facts for Topic 4: Career Options – Working With Dogs

A quarter of households in the UK have a dog and this has led to an increase in the variety of jobs with dogs, ranging from behaviourists, dog groomers, kennel workers, dog trainers, dog walkers, dog home boarders and assistance dog trainers.

Source: Animal-job.co.uk

Blue Cross for Pets offers rehoming and veterinary services, which help 35,000 pets each year.

Source: Bluecross.org.uk

Worksheet for Topic 4: Career Options – Working With Dogs

It is time to test what you have learned, by way of this worksheet. Set 30 minutes aside, to cover all three activities that have been set. There is a convenient feedback and advice section for you to check what you have written, at the end of each activity.

Activity 1: Dog handlers work with dogs that are specially trained for special job, such as helping to prevent or detect a crime. Describe what specific jobs a dog handler might do (allow 10 minutes).

Advice and Feedback

Dog handlers work for many industries in the UK, including for local police, military, councils and private organisations. Though these people will have specific responsibilities, depending on where they work, there are some similarities that all dog handlers do on a day to day basis.

Activity 2: Pet behavioural counsellors work with pet owners, by explaining how to deal with any behavioural issues their dog might show. What specific behaviours do these counsellors often work with (allow 10 minutes)?

Advice and Feedback

Most dog behaviour counsellors are self-employed and they work with clients who have dogs exhibiting behaviour problems. The hours these people might work vary greatly, but in most cases, the counsellor must work when it is convenient for their clients.

Activity 3: There are a number of qualifications necessary, before someone can become an RSPCA inspector. What are these qualifications (allow 10 minutes)?

Advice and Feedback

Those who wish to work for the RSPCA have a number of qualifications that they must meet, including physically and mentally demanding qualifications. These people also must have a specific educational background.

Much of this module should have proven to be fairly straightforward and self-explanatory. However, if you do not feel you have taken in all of the relevant information covered in this module, or you have not been able to complete this worksheet, find the time to run through the module again.

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