



Showmanship Manual



Philosophy of Showmanship

Showmanship helps 4-H members develop skills and knowledge in dog show handling. It allows 4-H members to learn about breeds of dogs and general grooming responsibilities. In showmanship the judge evaluates the handler's knowledge, skill, effort, and experience.

Handlers will be evaluated on the following five basic areas:

1. Proper breed presentation
2. Ring procedure
3. Knowledge
4. Grooming of dog
5. 4-H'ers appearance and conduct

Showmanship gives each 4-H member the opportunity to present themselves and their dog to the best of their ability. This is exemplified by a handler working as a team with his or her dog, so the dog is stacked, alert, and under control, while at the same time the 4-H'er appears confident and in control.

It is important to remember at all times that the 4-H showmanship ring is not the AKC showmanship ring. (In the AKC showmanship ring the dog is being judged, while in 4-H the handler is being judged.) The dog's conformation or its being purebred is of no importance. The emphasis is on the handler's presentation of the dog standing still and in motion.

At the Dog Show

The armband is worn on your left arm with the number visible. The ring steward will signal you to enter the ring and start the class. Handlers and dogs will enter the ring in the order they are called. The moment you enter the ring with your dog the show has begun.

Clothing

At the Story County Dog Show all exhibitors are required to follow the fair dress code. The 4-H t-shirts will be required for all youth exhibiting at the Story County 4-H Dog Show; they emphasize the importance of proper dress and equal representation of all youth. In addition, the t-shirts will provide a uniform recognition of 4-H youth participating in livestock programs at the Story County Fair.

4-H'ers should be neatly and appropriately dressed when exhibiting in the show ring. All shirts must have sleeves and be tucked in. Dark colored jeans, pants, shorts (fingertip length) or skirt (fingertip length) are acceptable. No torn blue jeans, no commercial advertising on shirts or equipment and no caps are allowed in the show ring. Wearing close-toed and closed-heeled shoes is necessary when showing any animal. Shoes should also be flat and easy to walk in. Avoid wearing jewelry that makes noise or interferes with handling.

4--Her's Attitude

- The handler must be a good sport in the ring and outside the ring. They must exhibit a positive attitude toward other exhibitors as well as the judge.
- Handlers must be alert and attentive to what is going on in the ring, as well as to their dog, and its behavior. Smoothness and continual control of the dog is mandatory.
- Handlers should listen to the judge's directions. If a handler is unable to hear what the judge says for directions, they should ask the judge to please repeat what was said.
- Handlers need to be aware of the judge's presence at all times and should occasionally make brief eye contact with the judge. It is important for a handler to convey that they are enjoying showing their dog.

Competition Rules

Eligibility for Participation

Any dog may be shown in 4--H showmanship, regardless of breed or cross. Conformation of the dog is not evaluated in 4--H showmanship. A mixed breed dog should be shown by the breed standard it most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed.

No dog in season may be shown.

Classes

Junior Showmanship – youth that just completed grades 4, 5, and 6

Intermediate Showmanship – youth that just completed grades 7, 8, and 9; as well as any Juniors that have won their class but not aged up yet

Senior Showmanship – youth that just completed grades 10, 11, and 12; as well as any Intermediates that have won their class but not aged up yet

Master Showmanship – day of show winners of each class, as well as any past winners of the Master class and any Seniors that have won their class but not aged out yet

Eliminating in the Ring

Eliminating in the ring is an automatic 10--point deduction in all classes. Please make sure to potty your dogs before entering the ring.

Leads

The size/weight of the lead should be appropriate for the size and/or breed of the dog. Most large dogs should not be shown on lightweight leads. Regardless of which lead is used, the handler must be in control of the dog and the lead shall be held and

used neatly. Deductions shall be made for leads hanging down or flapping about the dog. The handler's lead should be ready at all times and deductions shall be made for time spent wrapping leads and getting ready to move out.

In the 4--H showmanship ring, the lead should never be removed when presenting the dog to the judge.



Collars

Dogs may be shown on regular collars or on showmanship leads (slip leads). No gentle leaders in the showmanship ring unless authorized by the Superintendent.

Use of Bait (Food)

In the 4--H showmanship ring, baiting of dogs with food is allowed at all levels. If a handler uses bait, it must be used discreetly, with no deliberate baiting near other dogs. If the bait is dropped in the ring and not immediately picked up OR is used to deliberately distract other dogs, the handler will automatically receive a white ribbon. Small toys are allowed in the 4--H showmanship ring, and a squeaker may be used.

The purpose of baiting is to animate the dog when stacking it in the line up or during individual presentation to the judge. Dogs show animation and/or expression by either wagging their tail or perking up their ears. Bait is also used when stacking the dog to keep his attention.

- Baiting is to be done discreetly, without a lot of fanfare and flare. Never stretch an arm out when holding the bait so that it catches any other dog's attention. Be respectful of the others in the ring.
- The size of the food bait pieces should be appropriate for the size of the dog. Semi--moist food chunks work best because they can be easily handled and

quickly broken off without too much mess. Dry/hard bones or food cannot quickly be broken into smaller pieces. Bait should not be messy or gooey.

- “Mouth bait” that is actually kept in your mouth is not permitted in the 4H ring. This is to prevent any accidental choking.
- Keep bait in a bait bag or in a skirt, pants, or jacket pocket until ready to use it.
- Do not take the bait out of the pocket or bait bag until in the ring and the judge has placed the group in the order he/she wants it to be in. Use the bait as needed to stack.
- Be sure to put the bait back in a bait bag or pocket before gaiting around the ring in a group. Never, ever leave the bait in the hand when not using it.
- Put any bait away right before the judge approaches for the individual examination of the dog.
- When doing an individual gaiting pattern, keep the bait in a pocket or bait bag. While completing the pattern and returning to the judge, take the bait out to present the dog to the judge.
 - Bait should be held directly in front of the dog. At what height/level to hold the bait depends on the size of the dog and experience of the handler. Again, think of the overall picture being created for the judge. If bait is held too high for a big dog, it will throw the balance of the dog totally off – big dogs have a habit of reaching for something high.
 - If small dogs are baited too low, they do not respond.
- Never, ever throw the bait while in the 4--H showmanship ring. Never toss the bait in the air, expecting to catch it while trying to get the dog’s attention. (You may not catch the bait.) This is just common courtesy and respect to other dogs and 4--H’ers in the ring.

Showmanship Ring Procedure

Individual judges vary their judging routine and the following components may be mixed in any order. Basic procedure includes:

1. Gaiting by group and individual
2. Stacking (posing) the dog
3. Individual examination of dog

Individual Gaiting

Make gaiting smooth, straight, and the correct speed. When in motion, the dog should move naturally and freely. Avoid traveling ahead of or behind the dog.

Always keep the show lead in the hand that is beside the dog. Unlike in Obedience, the arm should be extended out from the side, held above the dog’s head. Do not keep the lead too tight or too loose for the breed or individual dog. The lead should never be so tight as to pull the dog’s feet off the ground.

Avoid unnecessary motions or noises that detract from the gaiting procedure. Use the entire ring unless the judge instructs otherwise.

The dog is to be kept between the judge and handler at all times. It is a major fault if the handler is between the judge and the dog for a significant amount of time (examples: an entire side of the ring, entire pattern, all the way around the ring, etc.). It is a minor fault if the handler is between the judge and the dog for a minimal amount of time and he/she corrects the mistake.

A courtesy turn is optional in 4--H, but is recommended to get the dog moving or to reposition the dog during a pattern. As the courtesy turn is completed the handler continues directly into the designated pattern with no stop in between. At this point it is acceptable for the handler to briefly pass between his/her dog and the judge. If the courtesy turn cannot be executed smoothly, it should not be done because it then detracts from the overall presentation.

Group Gaiting

Enter the ring in the order assigned by the steward. The judge may choose to rearrange the dogs according to size and/or speed.

During group gaiting, the handler and dog will always move counter--clockwise around the ring. Gaiting is usually done around the perimeter of the ring with dogs on the left side of the handler. Passing should never be done except at the judge's request.

It is important that handlers leave space between themselves and the dogs in front of them for safety reasons and to give the judge the best view of their dog. During group gaiting, when the faster dogs are at the front of the line and 'catch up' to the smaller dogs at the end of the line, it is appropriate for the handler to slow down the gait of his/her dog. Those with a faster/larger dog should continue gaiting at a slower speed, even if it is not the proper speed for his/her breed.

Individual Examination of the Dog

Individual examinations of each dog will be conducted, usually from the group stack. The judge may look at the dog from a few steps back and then move forward to examine the dog. While the judge is doing this, the handler should be attentive to the judge while maintaining full control over the dog.

Some judges may ask the handler to show either the dog's bite or their teeth. To show the bite, lift the front lips of the dog show how the teeth come together. To show the teeth, lift the side lip and expose the side teeth. The judge will be looking for cleanliness. 4--H'ers should be careful not to get his/her hands or head in the way of the judge's view.



If the judge moves off-side, the handler should move, so the dog stays between the handler and the judge, while keeping the dog under control. If movement to the other side is needed, a simple step around the front of your dog to the other side is allowed. This will take less movement, be less distracting, and will not pull the dog out of position. The presentation on the other side of your dog, the front, the profile, or the rear can be done without adding unnecessary movement or distractions by you and most importantly you will be about to continue to present your dog.

Stacking

Stacking dogs should be done when the class stops gaiting around the ring. It should be maintained while the judge is doing individual examinations of other dogs in the class. The exception would be that occasionally the judge may give direction 'to relax your dog' due to large class size, etc. This means that it is ok for the dog to sit or lie down; HOWEVER, the handler must remain attentive to both the judge and his/her dog's needs. It should also be done at the end of the individual gaiting pattern.

When stacking the dog, it is acceptable for the handler to either kneel on one or both knees or stand depending on individual preference and comfort level. Minor deductions shall be made for any handler who is not able to move gracefully and quickly around the dog. Major deductions shall be made for crawling on both knees.

4--H'ers may lift from underneath the chest or mandible and hips to stack their dog. Never use the tail to stack the dog. This is considered a major fault. Never lift all four feet of the dog off the floor at the same time. This is considered a major fault.

It is each member's responsibility to find out how their breed is customarily stacked. While stacking the dog, handlers will be evaluated on the correct stack for the breed. All breeds are stacked with their front feet positioned evenly with each other. 4-- H'ers should work to develop proficiency in speed and ease of stacking.

It is each handler's responsibility to leave sufficient space between themselves and the dog in front of them. Sufficient space means there is enough room for the judge to walk between the dogs without touching either dog or feeling crowded.

The judge may request that handlers move to a different location in the ring or restack their dog facing another direction. When this occurs, it is important to be able to turn the dog gracefully and re--stack the dog quickly.

General Stacking Tips

- Be gentle with your dog. Heavy handedness is not allowed in the ring.
- Set the front legs of your dog by picking them up by the elbow and set the back legs by lifting at the hock joint.
- Make sure the collar stays high up under the dogs chin and at the top of the dog's neck. Keeping control of the dog's head will help keep your dog in a stack. Maintain this collar position throughout the stack when you have your hand holding the collar.
- Wrapping your fingers around the collar and holding up the dog's head will help you maintain proper head and shoulder positioning. Try to avoid stringing the dog up by the leash to stack (holding the leash instead of the collar).
- As long as the dog remains still you should reward with bait or allow them to chew on the bait. Slowly build distance between the bait and the dog's nose and increase the time the dog stands still. Eventually you will have a dog that will be able to stand still for a long period of time, looking at the bait in your hand.
- When stacking, the lead should be held neatly, either in the palm of your hand at the collar, or draped neatly across your lap or around your neck while kneeling. There are many different and acceptable methods of holding/draping your leash. The objective is to have a smooth and neat presentation, not sloppy or dangling on the ground or on your dog.
- If your dog is standing correctly and the feet are where they should be, don't move them. Continue to re--check your dog's foot placement from time to time, to make sure you dog did not move their feet.
- The timing of your stack is very important. Know when the judge is looking down the line and have your dog looking good in a stack or free stack. Some judges will look down the line often and others will not. When the judge is busy going over another dog or watching someone else do their pattern, you and your dog can relax and play a bit.
- Learn to stack your dog from either side, front or rear. Use a mirror to see what it looks like, or have someone watch you.

Gaiting Patterns

During individual gaiting, the handler should move the dog at the correct speed for its breed. He/she needs to move at a speed that will match the dog's appropriate gait. Trotting is when one front leg and the opposite rear leg move forward at the same time.

Pacing is when the legs on the same side of the dog move forward at the same time. Gaiting will allow the judge to evaluate the dog's side, front, or rear movement. The

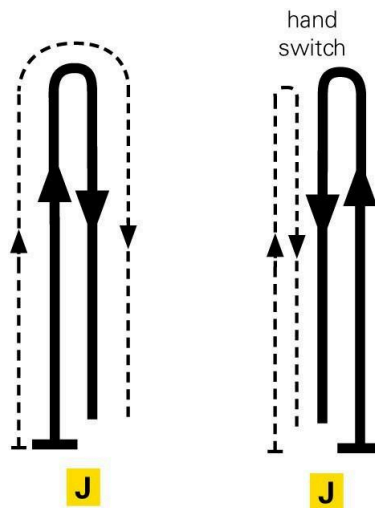
judge needs to be able to see how the dog's legs move along a straight line. The handler will be asked to perform one or more of the following patterns:

1. Down and Back (clover kids and all levels)
2. Triangle pattern (all levels except clover kids)
3. 'L' pattern (intermediate and senior)
4. 'T' pattern (senior)

Down and Back

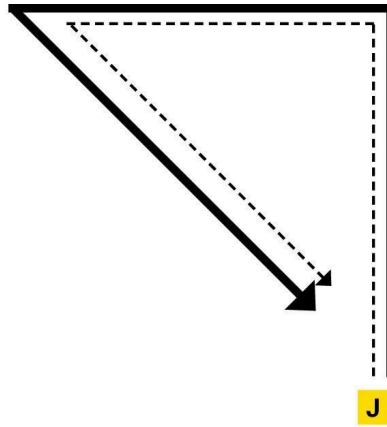
The handler and dog will be asked to gait across the ring either on the diagonal or from end to end. At the opposite end of the ring, the handler has the option to do (1) an about turn or (2) to switch hands with the lead.

- If an about turn is executed, the dog stays on the same side (left or right) and goes around the outside of the handler.
- If the handler switches hands with the lead, he/she and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. The dog ends up on the opposite side of the handler from where it originally started (left to right or right to left).
- Executing a U--turn (where the handler goes around the dog) is a major fault.
- This will be used only at the Clover Kid level or for tie--breaks/narrowing down individuals at junior, intermediate, senior levels.



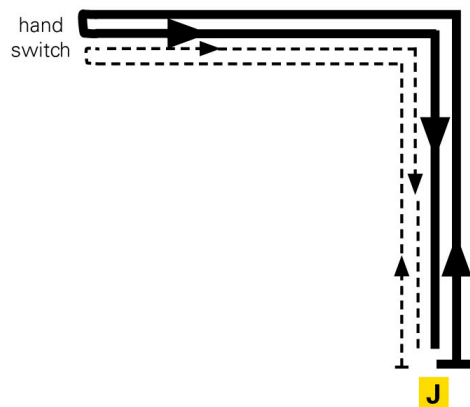
Triangle Pattern

This pattern is performed in the shape of a right triangle. The handler and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner. Then one of three turns may be made before proceeding up the diagonal and back to the judge. Under no circumstances may a judge direct a handler to do a reverse triangle where they would go down the diagonal first.



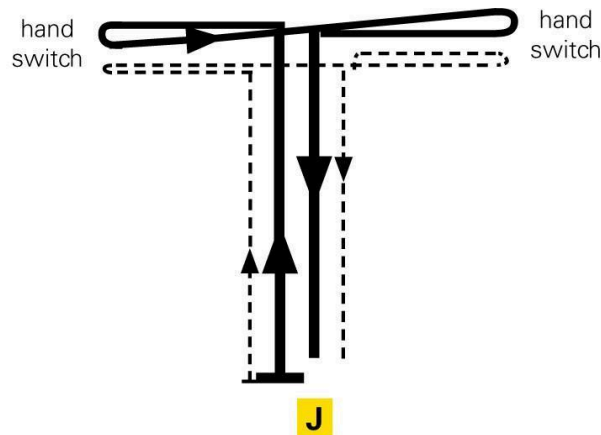
'L' Pattern

This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter 'L.' The handler and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. At the corner make a left turn and proceed all the way to the next corner, switching hands with the lead. The handler and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the other end of the ring.



'T' Pattern

This pattern is performed in the shape of an uppercase letter 'T' the judge will indicate where to start the 'T' pattern. The handler and dog will proceed in a straight line away from the judge to the opposite end of the ring. The handler should turn to whichever side the dog is on and proceed to the corner of the ring. He/she then switches hands with the lead. The handler and dog turn into/toward each other and proceed to the other end of the ring. At the other end, he/she again switches hands with the lead. The handler and dog again turn into/toward each other and proceed back to the center of the ring. The handler then turns back toward the judge and proceeds in a straight line back to the judge.



Switching Hands

It may be necessary in some patterns to switch the lead from one hand to the other to ensure the dog is always between the judge and the handler. These changes should be done gracefully at the corners of the patterns only as necessary to be sure the judge has an unobstructed view of the dog.

Completion of the Pattern

It is customary for the handler to stop a few steps back from the judge. Some judges will use a hand signal to designate when to stop, others may not. If a judge does not signal, be sure to stop six feet from the judge. Most breeds should stop and stand with all four feet square. This is called 'free stacking.' The dog should walk into the stack squarely, without the handler moving the dog's feet by hand. Using hands to stack the dog upon the completion of an individual pattern is considered a minor fault.

4--H'ers Handling Skills

Handlers should appear prepared, confident, and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and fellow exhibitors. Handlers are expected to handle their dogs without distracting other 4--H'ers or their dogs. Those who crowd or disturb other dogs will be faulted.

Handlers should be aware that judges will excuse any dog that (1) is out of control, (2) injured (healed injuries that do not cause the dog pain are excluded), or (3) shows overt aggression toward other dogs or people. If there is any question about an injury and the ability of a dog to be shown, the 4--H'er should plan ahead and provide the show committee and the judge with a document from a licensed, practicing veterinarian that states that it is okay for the dog to be shown. Those who exhibit impatience or mistreatment of their dogs will be faulted.

4--H members should:

- Know correct handling of the leash, how to stack, and properly gait your dog.
- Be able to present your dog in a smooth, efficient and quiet manner to the judge without creating unnecessary movement.
- Make your dog look its best in both pose (stacking) and motion (gaiting)
- Use bait appropriately.
- Strive to make your DOG stand out as the most important part of the team effort.
- Be able to control your dog at all times.
- Keep your dog's attention without using dramatic or unnecessary noise or movements.
- Gait your dog in a controlled trot without distracting or interfering with the judge's view of the dog.
- Concentrate on your dog first, then you and the judge next. Make occasional eye contact with the judge to show attentiveness, but focus the majority of your attention on your dog. Always make sure your dog is looking it's best. The dog is the number one consideration in the ring.
- Make an effort not to distract or interfere with the judge's view of your dog.
- It is important to listen to the judge's instructions. If unsure of an instruction, it is appropriate to ask the judge for clarification.

Grooming and General Appearance of Your Dog

For your dog to look their best in the show ring, you should groom regularly. Each breed has specific needs, making it impossible to list them all here. Talk with breeders, professional groomers, or other owners to help you learn how to groom your breed. 4--H'ers are allowed assistance from a professional groomer, but are strongly encouraged to learn these skills as they advance in experience. Your dog will receive a score in the grooming category. Points may be deducted in any or all of the following categories:

- The number one requirement is to have your dog clean! Before Fair, your dog should be bathed.
- Coat – The dog's coat must be clean, not scaly, free of mats, and free of loose hair.
- They should not have dandruff or untreated sores.
- Eyes – The dog's eyes should be clean and free of matter. Any dog with hair over it's eyes that interferes with it's vision may have the hair tied back with up to four rubber bands or plain, straight, rectangular--shaped barrettes that have a solid exterior color. No ribbons or bows are allowed.
- Ears – The dog's ears should be free of dirt, parasites, and excessive hair.
- Toenails must be trimmed. They should be cut regularly to prevent the quick from growing too long.



Toenail trimmed correctly.

Showmanship Knowledge Questions



Showmanship Knowledge Questions

In 4--H, questions will be asked by the judge. Members should be prepared to answer questions (in accordance with their age class), about general dog knowledge, specific questions about their dog, and about their breed of dog. If the dog is a mixed breed, answer questions based on the breed it most closely resembles, even if it is not a cross of that breed. Handlers shall not be expected to answer questions about any breed other than their own.

Junior Questions

1. What breed is your dog?
2. What does AKC stand for? (American Kennel Club)
3. What are the 8 AKC groups? (Sporting, Hound, Working, Terrier, Toy, Non--sporting, Herding, Miscellaneous)
 - a. What AKC group does your dog belong to?
 - b. For what purpose was your dog breed developed for?
4. What sex is your dog? Is it spayed or neutered? (a female is spayed – the ovaries and uterus is removed, a male is neutered – the testicles are removed)
5. Name 3 types of external parasites. (fleas, ticks, mites [ear mite, sarcoptic mange mite, follicular mange mite], lice)
6. What does DHLPP stand for? (distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvo--virus, para--influenza)
7. What is the only vaccination required by state law? (rabies)
8. List the four types of teeth. (incisors, canines, premolars, molars)
9. How many teeth does a dog have? (42)
10. What is the average temperature of an adult dog? (101--102 F degrees)
11. What is it called to shorten or remove a dog's tail? (dock)
12. What is it called when a dog's ears are trimmed and shaped by a vet? (crop)
13. What is whelping? (when a female dog has her puppies)

Intermediate Questions

1. The written description of the ideal dog of each recognized breed is called the what? (standard)
2. What are dogs in field and obedience trials judged on? (performance)
3. What are dogs in conformation shows judged on? (overall appearance and structure)
4. What are zoonotic diseases? (diseases that are transferred from animals to humans)
5. What is the common upper respiratory ailment dogs can catch when boarding or going to the dog park? (kennel cough)
6. What are canine teeth? (two upper and two lower sharp pointed teeth between the incisors and premolars, also known as tusks, fangs, or eyeteeth)
7. Define: Bite. (the way the upper and lower teeth meet when the mouth is closed.)

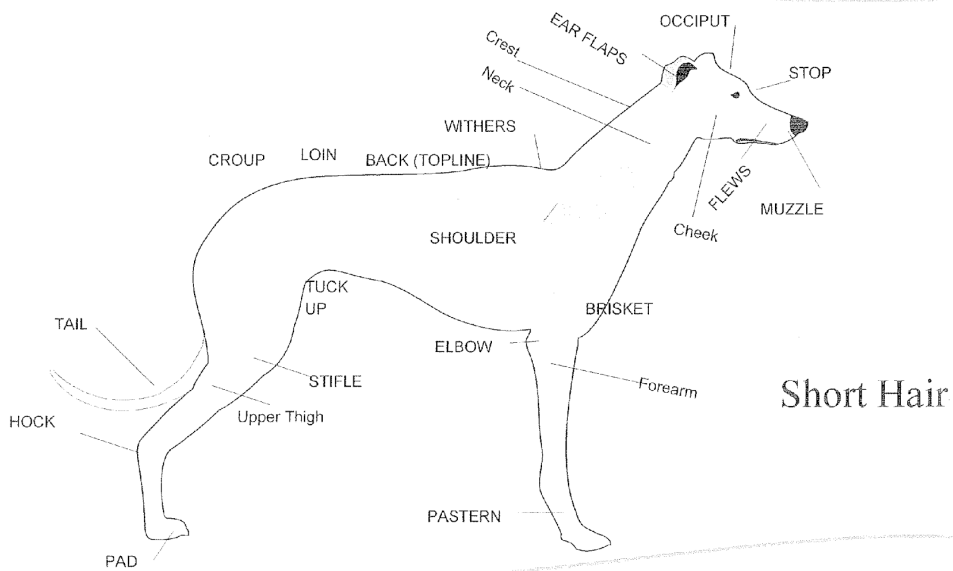
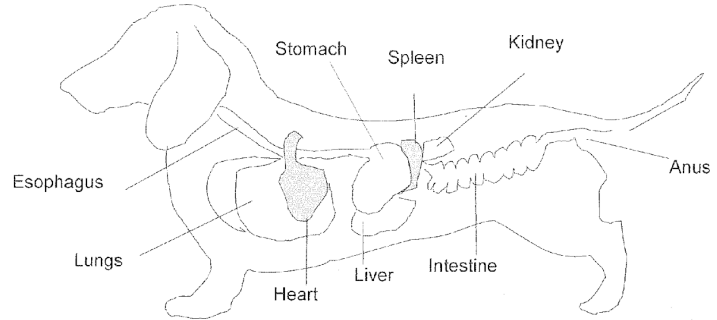
8. What is an even bite? (meeting of front teeth with bottom teeth at edges with no overlap of upper or lower teeth)
9. What is another term for gestation? (pregnancy)
10. Where are a dog's sweat glands located? (on his foot pads)
11. Define whiskers. (longer hairs on muzzle sides and underjaw)
12. When does a female dog have her first estrus (heat) cycle? (as early as 6 months)
13. Be able to describe what Rabies is. (a virus that infects the central nervous system, causing erratic behavior, always fatal, prevented by the rabies vaccine)

Senior Questions

1. Name 6 types of worms dogs can get. (Roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, tapeworm, heartworm, threadworm)
2. What disease can be carried to humans by a tick--infested dog? (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever)
3. How are heartworms spread from dog to dog? (mosquitoes)
4. Define: Scissor bite. (a bite in which the outer side of the lower incisors touches the inner side of the upper incisors. The bite required in most breed standards.)
5. Define: Incisors. (front teeth of each jaw between the canines)
6. What is the normal gestation period for a dog? (63 days)
7. What is the normal heart rate (beats/minute) of a dog? (120 beats/minute)
8. In a healthy dog what is the purpose of panting? (to cool body temperature)
9. In a dog's anatomy, what is the quick? (the vein in a dog's toenail)
10. Know how to take a dog's pulse. Place your hand in the groin where the hindlimb meets the body and find the femoral artery.
11. Know how to check a dog's breathing rate. You can either check his sides (count pants) or hold your wet finger in front of his nose for 15 seconds, counting the breaths and multiplying by 4.
 - a. What is the normal breathing rate for a dog? (10--30 respirations per minute)
12. Be able to describe what Distemper is. (picked up by contact with secretions from an infected dog's nose, causes pneumonia and seizures, treatment is difficult and most die, prevented by the DHLPP combo vaccine)
13. Be able to describe what Parvovirus is. (transmitted by exposure to contaminated feces, causes vomiting and diarrhea, treatment is intensive – requiring intravenous fluids and medications, mainly a disease of unvaccinated puppies and dogs, younger puppies are more likely than older dogs to die, prevented by the DHLPP combo vaccine)

Dog Body Parts

Internal



Short Hair

Long Hair

