

## Dogs

Dogs are one of the most popular pets across the world. It is generally agreed by scientists that dogs were first domesticated around 15,000 years ago. At around the same time, people were also domesticating pigs. It was so long ago that the area of Africa that is now the Sahara Desert, was wet and covered in plants.

### IT'S ALL IN THE BREED

All dogs share the same ancestors; however, the idea that all dogs descended from modern wolves appears to be incorrect. Scientists have found that dogs and modern wolves both came from a species of wolf that is now extinct. All modern species of dog have been created through careful breeding by humans. In total, there are hundreds of different species, though it is very difficult to find an exact figure. Some countries don't count cross-breeds as separate breeds, and so the numbers can be very different. The American Kennel Club only recognises 192 breeds, whereas the World Canine Organisation lists over 340 different breeds.



In 2019, the most popular breed of dog in the UK was the Labrador. 12% of dog owners had a Labrador as a pet. 8% owned a cockapoo and 6% owned springer spaniels.

### LOST AND FOUND

Unfortunately, not everybody who buys a dog is able to look after it for its whole life. Sometimes, dogs end up in rescue centres, such as the Dog's Trust. These rescue centres try to find new homes for dogs with families that will take care of them. The Dog's Trust looks after over 15,000 dogs each year in the UK. They have 20 rehoming centres across the country. Originally called the National Canine Defence League, the Dog's Trust has been running for over 130 years.

### CARING FOR A DOG



Dogs are energetic animals and need lots of love, care and exercise. Different breeds have different needs, and it's very important to learn about what a dog will need before choosing one. Some smaller breeds of dog are happy with half an hour of walking each day, but some need over 2 hours a day to keep fit and healthy.

It is also important to remember that dogs are social creatures. They love attention and need to be fussed and played with. Most breeds can live for over 10 years, so any owner must be able to give them the things they need to stay happy for a long time.



**1**

Look at the introduction.

**Find** and **copy one** phrase that shows you that most scientists feel the same way about something.

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

**2**

Consider the following statement:

*Dogs need lots of looking after to keep them healthy.*

Give **two** pieces of evidence from the text to support this statement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

**3**

Look at the section headed: ***Lost and Found.***

Complete the table below with **one** piece of evidence from the text to support each statement.

	Evidence
Lots of dogs need re-homing each year.	
Dogs don't always stay with the same owner.	

2 marks



**4**

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Dogs and modern wolves come from the same extinct species.		
Dogs have only been domesticated recently.		
The Dog's Trust only have one re-homing centre.		
All dogs need exercise to stay healthy.		

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 marks

**5**

a) How many breeds of dog does the American Kennel Club recognise?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 mark

b) Does everybody agree on the same number of species? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 marks

# SATs Practice - Answers

1. It is generally agreed.
2. **Give 1 mark for each correct answers from:**They are energetic animals  
They need lots of love, care and exercise  
Some breeds need 2 hours of exercise a day  
They like to be fussed and played with  
They can live for over 10 years
3. a) Over 15,000 dogs are looked after by the Dog's Trust each year  
b) Unfortunately, not everybody who buys a dog is able to look after it for its whole life.
4. **Give 1 mark for two correct answers. Give 2 marks for three or more correct answers.**  
True  
False  
False  
True
5. a) 192  
b) No **(1 mark)**. Some countries don't recognise cross-breeds. The World Canine Organisation has over 340 breeds. **(1 mark)**