

STUDY GUIDE



**Dog Owners**  
**SHORT COURSE**



# COMPLETING THE COURSE

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## HOW TO WORK THROUGH THIS COURSE

Over the following pages, you will move through a logical, self-paced learning experience that can enlighten and educate you.

It is important from the outset to understand that learning about something is not the same as just reading about it. Learning implies a permanent change in what you know and can do.

Anyone can read a book and understand it; but for most people the detail of what you read is largely forgotten.

Reading something once only puts information into short-term memory. It is soon lost if you don't 'work' on it. Studying the same information takes longer, but by thinking about it and processing it you can transfer that information to long-term memory. This way, you will enhance your ability to recall and apply that information for years to come. If you take your time to work through the twelve lessons that follow, you will learn.

## READ, REFLECT, RESEARCH, REVISE

Throughout the following pages, you will find not only things to read about, but also things to do:

1. Throughout each lesson, there are suggestions of things to do under the headings "Learn More". These are all sorts of ideas about things you can do in order to explore the subject further.
2. At the end of each lesson, there is an interactive selfassessment test (assignment), for you to undertake. When you click on this, your computer needs to be online. You will be taken to our cloud-based online school. The answers you choose will be evaluated immediately, and your results can be seen on completion of each test. You can return and repeat tests if you wish.

Undertaking these tasks will involve reflection, research and revision of the topics you read about. By repeatedly encountering each topic in different ways, your perspective on each subject will broaden, and the commitment of information to longer term memory will strengthen.

You don't need to undertake all of the suggested tasks if you don't want to; but we strongly recommend that you do some in each lesson, and that you take all of the self-assessment tests.

The more time you spend doing these things, the stronger your learning will be.

## COMPLETING THE COURSE

After completing all 6 lessons you will be presented with a final assessment which can also be undertaken online.

Do not attempt to do this until you have worked through all 6 lessons, and feel like you have learnt the subject well.

Upon finishing this final assessment you will immediately see your final results, and you can save a pdf copy of those results as a "Certificate of Completion".

## WELCOME AUDIO

Click the button below to listen to the welcome audio for this course. This feature is supported by most computers and some mobile devices.



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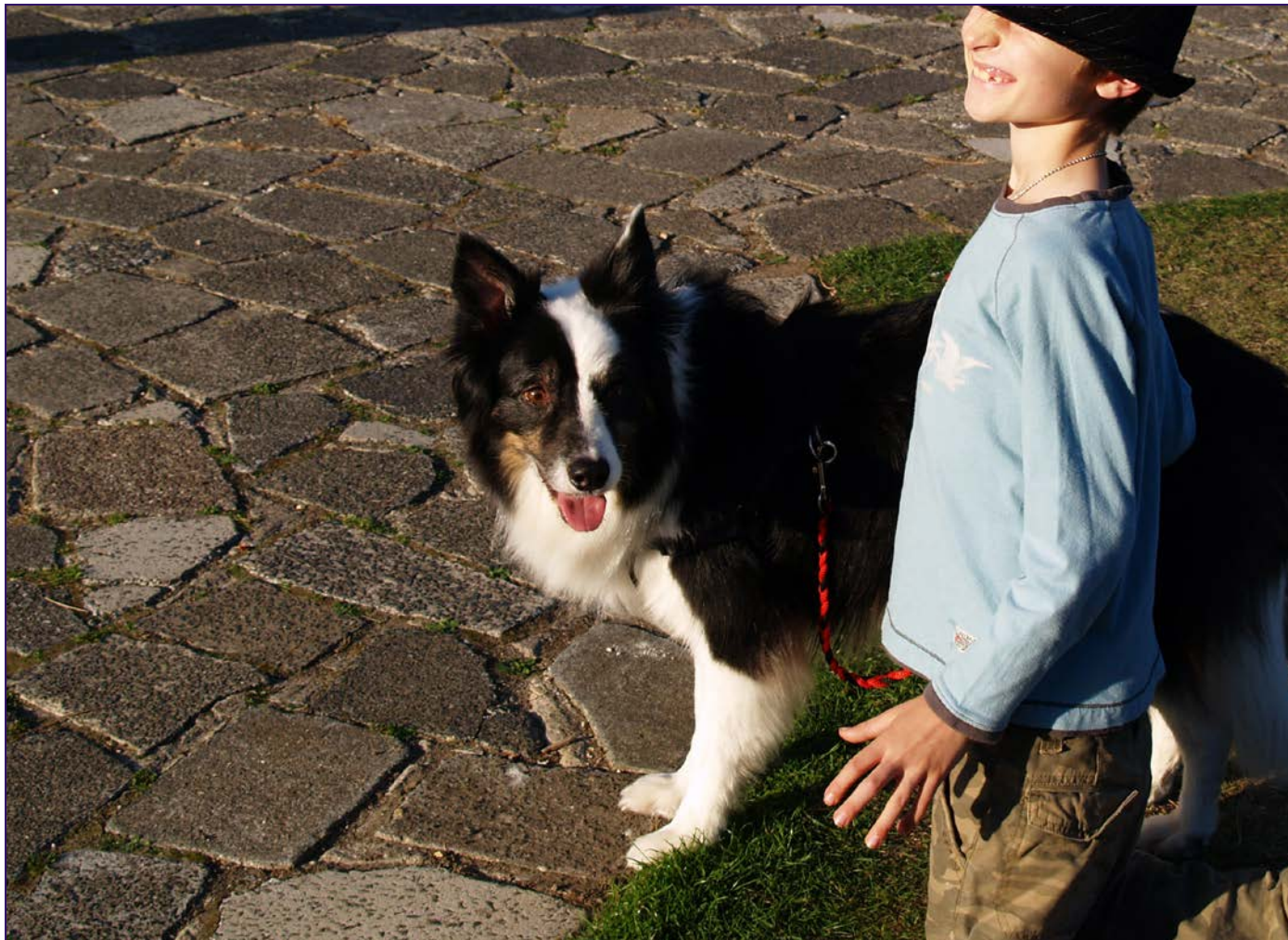
# INTRODUCTION

The friendship between humans and dogs is one of the oldest in history. From archeological findings, it is known that the first dog (*Canis familiaris*) domesticated by humans was in fact a wolf (*Canis lupus*). Dogs did not become domesticated through force, there was a friendship and mutual benefit of the relationship which enabled both to eat and therefore survive.

The evolution of the dog was rapid. All physical and psychological characters that we see in dogs did originate in the genetics of the wolf. So the wolf followed two paths – in one path the species remained the same; wild, untamed and

fierce, but the other pathway to evolution enabled the existence of dogs we see today.

In every component of life, dogs have accompanied humans. In war, in sport, in hunting, in scientific discoveries, in work, in wealth and in art, dogs have been cooperating with humans. Nowadays there are many dogs whose lives have meaning and purpose beyond companionship; however the majority of dogs over the world are pets living in homes as much loved family members. They offer companionship, love and loyalty; the dog remains deeply a part of human life and our best friend.



*Dogs are humans' best friends*

# LESSON 1: DOGS AND HUMANS

## HISTORY

*We accept the wolf was domesticated by humans 25-30 million years ago. Throughout history, dogs have functioned successfully alongside humans and their role in social environments was frequently documented through paintings, ancient drawings and sculptures. Prehistoric paintings associate dogs as household companions, not an animal used for a food source (unlike bison, deer, boar etc). The first proof of dogs used as guards became evident from 4500BC when images of dogs wearing a collar appear.*

Egyptian art shows some of the dog breeds we are most familiar with today including the hounds, dachshunds and mastiffs. In Egypt killing a dog was a crime often punishable by death, however the Hebrew culture was known for their dislike of the dog – they felt no positive outcomes were found in canine interactions and instead dogs were considered to be dirty animals which were left to fend for themselves. In many regions the dog was not originally a companion, dog meat was considered a delicacy, often served at meals of aristocracy. This view remains today in some cultures and countries, and sadly dog meat is still served as food.

During the roman to the medieval period, dogs played a hardy part in war. Their lives were taken as part of the military procedure in which they were first used to carry messages inside their stomachs. On arrival at their destination, the dog was then killed in order to quickly retrieve the message. The coming of the barbarians (considered by the Greeks as people who originated from the Persian Empire), after the fall of the Roman

Empire throughout 400-500BC, saw dogs being left to fend for themselves again and many packs of wild and untamed dogs emerged during that era. Finally at the end of this period, dogs re-emerged as hunters during times of extreme famine.

Throughout the middle ages dogs often provided companionship and protection of monks living in monasteries. An example of this is the German Shepherd bred by German monks who required a strong, brave guarding animal to keep thieves from stealing the treasures of their monasteries.

There are innumerable other examples of dogs used throughout this time in war. As the need for the dog strengthened during this time, we can see the introduction of some basic dog care and veterinary health being introduced. This was very simple; suggestions included dogs should be kept warm, skin conditions could be eased with bathing and feeding should be regular from clean bowls.

## LEARN MORE >>>

### Suggested Task

Research about dogs throughout war periods in History.

Make a list of breeds of dogs and their traits, which helped fight in war.

Name five of the most famous 'War Dogs' and explain how the dogs helped?

Using the Internet, books, the library:

Look up ancient cultural depictions of dogs and read about the history of Dogs in particular countries of interest to see how dogs were viewed.

Finally during the Renaissance dogs finally became a creature which had earned the respect of humans. Cruelty toward dogs became unacceptable during this time, and dogs became a symbol of wealth. Owning a dog for pleasure became common and upper-class women were known to want to groom and care for their dogs greatly, thus the idea of 'lap-dog' was created.

## DOG BREEDS

Dogs come in many sizes, shapes and colours. Those conforming to specific standards are classified as breeds. Various breeds have been developed over generations for specific purposes for example, sport, work, show or toys.

Depending on the breed, the size and temperament of the dog will differ greatly. You will find tiny (teacup), small, medium, large and giant dog breeds. Smaller breeds are best suited to small homes or apartment living because of the obvious space restrictions. Small breeds also cost less to look after than larger breeds, for example less needs to be spent on feeds and medications. Many working breeds require space to exercise and run, some large breeds like to sleep and do very little but still need an appropriate living area and outside space

Some dogs have a reputation for being easily provoked or are more likely to attack other dogs. Some breeds are great around young children, other breeds are less tolerant. It is rare for a dog to bite its owner, but it is an owner's responsibility to prevent the dog from biting other people. Dog bites, especially from large breeds can be severe. Small children have been seriously maimed and some have died. Some aggressive breeds have

been banned from residential areas and you must check the laws in your area and consider selecting a large or giant breed or an aggressive breed very carefully.

### PURE BREEDS OR CROSSBREEDS

Pure dog breeds, or pedigrees, are susceptible to hereditary abnormalities and disease susceptibility. Whilst buying a pure breed will give you some confidence in your pet's temperament, final size and appearance, if bought from a puppy, there are a number of psychological as well as physical issues which you may need to be aware of.

Some examples of pure breed problems include back problems which can lead to paralysis of the rear legs. This is because they have been specifically bred to have much longer backs. Paralysis may become permanent if not properly treated.

Another common health concern is gastric problems which are an issue with large deep-chested breeds, particularly Great Danes, German Shepherds, Boxers and Weimaraners. This is a major concern and you should check with the breeder to determine if the parents or grandparents, or any siblings have had the condition as treatment is very expensive and not often successful.

Deafness and eye problems are associated with some breeds including Poodles, Australian Cattle Dogs, Cocker Spaniels, Border Collies and Golden Retrievers.

Joint problems are also a concern in many breeds, with larger breeds at risk of hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia, while small and miniature breeds can suffer patella (knee cap) dysplasia.

## LEARN MORE >>>

### Suggested Task

What breed of dog would you have if you were to have a new pet?

Research this breed and find out the size, temperament, disease susceptibility and abnormalities.