

A **Fastest canid**

The Greyhound is the fastest canid and the second-fastest land animal, with a peak speed of over 45 mph. But the cheetah, the world's fastest four-legged rooket, wins the race every time, clocking in at up to 75 mph for short bursts. Fanta, a retired Greyhound, holds the doggie record at 50.5 mph.

2 **Biggest and heaviest dog**

The biggest and heaviest breed of dog is the English Mastiff. However, a St. Bernard named Benedictine holds the world record for the "Heaviest Dog Ever" weighing 366 lbs.

3 **Tallest breed**

While the Irish Wolfhound is considered the tallest of all dog breeds, the tallest dog ever recorded was a gentle giant named Zeus (November 22, 2008 - September 3, 2014), a Great Dane who measured 44 in tall.

4 **Smallest dog**

The Chihuahua is the smallest dog breed. The shortest dog from the nose to the tip of the tail is Heaven Sent Brandy, a female Chihuahua who measured 6 in. The smallest, in terms of height, is a female Chihuahua called Miracle Milly, who measured 3.8 in. tall.

5 **Oldest dog on record**

Aging varies according to a dog's adult size, with smaller dogs outliving their giant counterparts by two times. The oldest known dog was a Beagle-Dachshund-Terrier cross named Max who lived to be 29 yrs, 282 days. Mixed breeds have an average life expectancy of 13.2 yrs in the Western world.

6 **Population size**

Of the estimated 525 million plus pet dogs on our planet, 83 million live in the US and 6 million live in Canada. That does not include an unknown number of strays. Approximately 1 in 3 households keep dogs as pets.

7 **Why spay & neuter?**

Pet overpopulation is a huge problem. Healthy, adoptable dogs are put down every day. If never spayed or neutered, a female dog, her mate, and their puppies could theoretically produce 67,000 dogs in 6 years! Spay and neuter your dog. Neutered male dogs live 18% longer and spayed female dogs live 23% longer.

8 **Puppy facts**

A puppy is born utterly dependent; unable to see, hear, walk, or even sustain his own body temperature. He does, however, have the sense of smell and touch. Their milk teeth do not begin to erupt until they are 2-3 weeks old. Eventually their 28 puppy teeth are replaced by 42 permanent teeth at 4-8 months of age and they begin to chew everything!

9 **Doggie smarts**

Some dogs are capable of understanding up to 250 words and gestures; can count up to five; and perform simple mathematical calculations. Border collies, who are bred for herding work, are uniquely suited to communicate through verbal language and sounds because they are required to work "at a distance" from their human companions.

10 **How smart is your dog?**

Is your dog a genius? A Dognition Assessment provides a window into your dog's individual cognitive style—the thinking, learning, and problem-solving strategies that influence much of your dog's behavior. At www.dognition.com, you can play science-based games to assess empathy, communication, cunning, memory, and reasoning.

J **Why do they do that?**

When dogs kick after going to the bathroom, they are using the scent glands on their paws to further mark their territory. Dogs curl up in a ball when they sleep due to an age-old instinct to keep themselves warm and protect their abdomen and vital organs from predators.

Q **Fun Facts**

Dogs have about 1,700 taste buds. Humans have approximately 9,000. A panting dog takes 300-400 breaths per minute to cool themselves off. Dogs have three eyelids, an upper lid, a lower lid and the third lid, called a nictitating membrane or "haw", which helps keep the eye moist and protected.

K **Famous dogs**

Rin Tin Tin was the first Hollywood dog star... and he really signed his movie contracts—all 22 of them—with a pawprint. In the 1939 film adaptation, The Wizard of Oz, Toto was played by a female brindle terrier named Terry and was paid more than the human actors at \$125 per week.

A **Wet or dry nose?**

Ever wonder why your dog's nose is wet? The mucus on a dog's nose helps them smell by capturing scent particles. When a dog's nose is dry, they may lick it to aid them in scent. But, a cold, wet nose is not a reliable indicator of good health—a healthy dog can have a warm, dry nose and a sick dog can have a cold, wet nose.

2 **Are dogs colorblind?**

Dogs are not really colorblind. Studies have shown that dogs see in colors of various shades of blue and yellow. For example, a rainbow to a dog would be as follows: dark blue, light blue, light gray, light yellow, dark brownish yellow, and dark gray.

3 **A dog's hearing**

A dog can hear sounds 250 yds away that most people cannot hear beyond 25 yds. Dogs have twice as many muscles for moving their ears as people. Dogs with perked ears can usually hear better than dogs with hanging ears, especially if they can move their ears in the direction of the sound.

4 **Vital stats**

Dogs take between 10 and 30 breaths every minute compared to our 12-18. A dog's heart beats between 70 and 120 times a minute, while our normal heart rate is 60-100. A dog's temperature is between 100.2° F and 102.8° F. And ours is 98.6° F.

5 **A scent-sitive nose**

While a dog's brain is only 1/10 the size of a human's, the part that controls smell is 40 times larger. With 125-300 million scent glands compared to about 5 million in humans, a dog's sense of smell is much more sensitive. A dog can detect a tsp. of sugar in a million gallons of water.

6 **6th sense?**

Dogs react to and perceive different things in the environment. They often sense earthquakes and storms before they happen; illness in people such as cancer or diabetes; when a woman is pregnant; and the onset of labor or a seizure. Dogs sense fear, anger and many other human emotions.

7 **Can you hear that?**

Dogs hear higher frequency sounds than humans, so they have a different acoustic perception of the world. They often bark at vacuums because they hear a very loud annoying whistle to their motors. While dog whistles, which emit ultrasonic sound, are used in dog training, as a dog will respond much better to such levels.

8 **Eyesight**

Compared to their guardians, dogs cannot see as well. While a human's vision is considered perfect at 20/20, a dog's vision is on average 20/75. A dog's vision is best at dusk and dawn, and they are better at detecting movement than we are.

9 **Puppy weaning**

Puppies are usually weaned at 6-7 weeks, but should stay with their mother and littermates for at least 12 weeks to learn the appropriate social skills such as exploring the ranking process ("who's in charge"), learning what an "inhibited bite" (acceptable mouthing pressure) means, and how far to go in play-wrestling.

10 **Canine Communication**

While most humans communicate by hearing, seeing, and then smelling, dogs primarily communicate by smelling, seeing and lastly hearing. Dogs also have a universal sense which humans do not have; they can feel the energy (emotions) of the other beings around them.

J **Harnessing health**

Spiked dog collars were invented in ancient Greece and were originally designed to protect dog's throats from wolf attacks. Today we know better. Choke, prong and shock collars can cause irreversible damage to your dog. A well-fitting harness, with the leash attached at the front of the chest, is the best alternative.

Q **A dog's tail**

There are many different shapes for dog tails: straight, straight up, sickle, curled, or cork-screw. One of the primary functions of a dog's tail is to communicate their emotional state, which can be important in getting along with others. In some bred dogs, however, the tail is docked to avoid injuries.

K **Social animals**

Puppies are highly social animals and spend most of their waking hours interacting with their mother or littermates. To avoid fearful behavior around humans or other dogs as adults, it's important to socialize a puppy between 8-12 weeks of age; introducing them to a wide and varied selection of people and environments.

A **A strong moral compass**

Dogs expect reciprocity, they expect kindness, and they expect fairness. Dogs have a strong moral compass, which is what makes them such outstanding companions. They expect you to live a moral life and will react accordingly, sometimes acting out to let you know when they're disappointed.

2 **A dog's inheritance**

Pet trusts covering the cost of care are very popular, with up to a quarter of pet owners providing provisions for their pets in their wills. Some pampered pets inherit millions of dollars, in addition to property, jewelry and a lifetime of prearranged pampering.

3 **Dog owners live longer**

Pets have a way of putting a smile on your face and a spring in your step. Not only do animals give you unconditional love, but they have been shown to be psychologically, emotionally, and physically beneficial. People who own dogs are likely to live longer and require less medical attention.

4 **Adopt a shelter dog**

Save a dog's life. Adopt from a shelter. Not only will it save you money, but you will be adopting a healthy pet that has been examined by a vet, vaccinated and is properly matched to your family's lifestyle. Many shelter dogs already have the social skills they need to become an enjoyable part of your household.

5 **What we do for dogs**

The things we do for the love of dogs: we talk to our dogs on the phone or leave messages for them on the answering machine; include our pet's name on greeting cards; take them on play dates; get their photos taken with Santa and even take them to work with us. And why not?

6 **Doggie heroism**

Inspiring stories of doggie heroism abound. Dogs have rescued their owners and often complete strangers from serious injury and even death. Accounts of canine bravery range from pulling a drowning person ashore or an unconscious victim from a fire to taking bullets or fighting off an attacker or venomous snake.

7 **Canine companions**

Dogs in the same family often share a strong bond. But canine companionship can extend to other animals sparking some surprising inter-species relationships, like those between dogs and dolphins, rats, deer, geese, and all sorts of play pals. A nursing dog will even adopt newborns from another species.

8 **Pampered pooches**

From being relegated to the "dogghouse" in the 50's to sleeping in our beds, today dogs enjoy full membership in our families. Pampered pooches may spend the day at the dog spa, have their own clothing and furniture, enjoy home-baked cookies, and eat healthy organic raw meat & veggie diets.

9 **Working dogs**

"Man's best friend" is a moniker well earned. Dogs perform many roles for people, such as hunting, herding, pulling loads, protection, assisting police and the military, aiding handicapped individuals, not to mention pure companionship, making our relationship with dogs the most widespread form of inter-species bonding on the planet.

10 **Traveling with Fido**

Pet-friendly travel is more commonplace now than ever. Several websites are dedicated to finding pet-friendly accommodations, campgrounds, parks, beaches, hiking trails, tours and attractions. You can even bring Fido on board the Queen Mary 2 for a transatlantic crossing, as well as shorter cruise excursions and ferry crossings.

J **Socializing with Fido**

There are lots of fun ways to meet other dog enthusiasts. Events include pet expos, dog festivals, group dog walking, costume parades plus more imaginative events like Woof Weekend, the K9 Wine & Dine, Unleashed Yappy Hour, PawsFitness Doggie Boot Camp, and Woof Walkathon.

Q **Pet passports**

Taking your pooch on family trips and traveling outside your country has become commonplace. While every country has different requirements, a pet passport, microchip and rabies vaccination makes the customs process easier and quarantine often unnecessary.

K **A story of loyalty**

Hachikō (1923-1935) was an Akita dog who is remembered for his remarkable loyalty to his owner, Hidesaburō Ueno. Each day, Hachikō waited for Ueno at the train station to return home from work. One day Ueno died and never returned home, but Hachikō returned to the train station daily for over nine years awaiting his beloved companion.

A **The nose knows**

A dog's nose prints are as unique as a human's finger prints and can be used to accurately identify them. The longer a dog's nose, the more effective its inter-species cooling system. Puppies have heat sensors in their noses to help find their mother's teats when their eyes and ears are still closed.

2 **How do dogs drink?**

Dogs drink water by using the top of their tongue like a conveyor belt to transport dollops of water to the throat, taking a few laps before they actually swallow. The back-splash mess is created when they rip their tongues out of the water causing a significant amount of acceleration—about five times that of gravity.

3 **Genetically diverse species**

The vast array of dog breeds surpasses any other creature on the planet making dogs the single most genetically diverse species on Earth. This is largely due to human-imposed selective breeding, which also results in significant genetic disorders like hip dysplasia in German Shepherds for example.

4 **What's in a name?**

A male canine is simply referred to as a dog, while a female is called a bitch. A group of offspring are a litter. The father of a litter is called the sire, and the mother is called the dam. Offspring are called pups or puppies, until they are about a year old. The process of giving birth is whelping.

5 **Scientifically speaking...**

Dogs (scientific name *Canis lupus familiaris*) are a subspecies of wolves, divided into a multitude of different breeds all in principle capable of interbreeding (though in some cases, physical relations between two breeds like Chihuahuas and Great Danes are unlikely or problematic).

6 **What does DNA prove?**

Based on nuclear DNA evidence, the modern domestic dog began from a single domestication 11 to 16 thousand years ago from a now-extinct European wolf population. The domestication of dogs preceded that of other animals such as sheep, pigs, cattle and horses.

7 **Who knew?**

Two dogs survived the sinking of the Titanic. Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible. A three-legged dog once ran 27 mph which is around the same speed as the world's fastest human. Sweden requires its citizens to walk their dogs at least every 6 hours. A Chow's tongue turns black at 8-10 weeks of age.

8 **Puppy meals**

Born after an average of 63 days of gestation, puppies begin to nurse almost immediately. As they reach one month of age, puppies are gradually weaned and begin to eat solid food. The mother may regurgitate partially digested food for the puppies.

9 **Poodle pom-poms?**

The Poodle's "haircut" was intended to improve their swimming abilities. The pom-poms were left to keep their joints warm! Unlike most dogs which have double coats, poodles have a single layer coat (with no undercoat) composed of dense, curly fur that sheds minimally making them virtually hypoallergenic.

10 **Did you know?**

Dalmatian puppies are born pure white and develop their spots as they grow older. Dogs do not sweat by salivating. They sweat through the pads of their feet. The average dog's mouth exerts 150 to 180 pounds of pressure per square inch. Some dogs can apply up to 450 pounds.

J **Sleepy time...**

The average sleep time of a dog is said to be about 10 hours per day. Like humans, dogs have two main types of sleep: slow-wave sleep, then rapid eye movement sleep—the state in which doggie dreams occur. Approximately 30% of their day is at rest (mostly awake but inactive). Dogs are active only about 20% of each day.

Q **Sink or swim?**

Many dogs are naturally amphibious, but not all dogs can swim. Some dogs may have the physical capacity to swim, but have a mortal fear of the water and tend to panic when submerged. Webbed feet and strong long limbs aid in swimming. Some prefer to wade in shallow areas. And others should just stay clear of the water. A life vest is always advisable.

K **What's in a bark?**

Dogs bark as a form of communication. It can be a form of warning/protection or a form of excitement, like when he wants a ball. It may simply be a response to a stimulus, like a jogger running by the house—or it may be your dog's way of letting you know he's bored, scared, confused or wants attention.

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DOG-LOGY
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52 Fascinating Dog Facts