

Dogs in a HUMAN WORLD



Before You Read

A. Discussion. Look at the picture and answer the questions.

1. How many dog breeds in the picture can you name?
2. Do any of these dogs have special abilities?
3. Which of these dogs can help humans?
4. Which dogs do you think make the best pets? Why?

B. Scan. Scan the passage on pages 30–31 to find and circle the three dog breeds mentioned. According to the passage, what is each breed like?

^ There are more than 300 different dog breeds on Earth. Each breed may have a unique look, but they are all members of one species, *Canis lupus familiaris*, the domestic dog.



^ Shaynee the therapy dog visits children in the hospital.

1 | Dogs and Humans

About 14,000 years ago, human beings and dogs began a partnership that has lasted through the years. Our interactions may have begun when wolves came close to our homes, attracted by the smell of human **garbage**, or when humans found wolf puppies¹ and trained them to be loving pets.

Today, by means of the careful **selection** of dog parents, humans have created many different breeds of dog. Each breed has its own look and **talents**, and its own role within human society. Here are three examples of "a dog's life" in the human world.

1 | The Animal Carer

Today, many hospitals let specially trained dogs in to bring love and cheer to patients. Shaynee the wheaten terrier is a therapy dog. She visits children who are fighting deadly diseases. Dogs like Shaynee help patients feel calm and at peace, which can be hard in a busy hospital. They help both children and adults stay strong during long hospital stays, and, some suggest, even help them get better.

¹ Puppies are young dogs.

The Working Dog

- 20 Today, some beagles work in airports for the government. They are part of a program called the Beagle Brigade. A beagle is good for this type of work because of its powerful nose, and ability to **track** smells. The Beagle Brigade's job is to smell everything that comes into the country. They
- 25 alert officers to illegal fruits, vegetables, and other foods in **luggage** or in mail. The beagles do the job far better than any human could. Some of the dogs are **donated** by private owners; others were **rescued** from animal shelters.²



^ Toy dogs, like this Yorkshire terrier, make good pets for people who have small homes.

The Pampered Pet

- 30 While some dogs are working hard, others are free to spend their days resting and playing. Across the world, many pet dogs are treated like children. Many have their own rooms and all the things a dog could want. Some, like the
- 35 Yorkshire terrier pictured above, even have their own clothes. Many of these pampered³ pets spend their days playing, learning to be **obedient**, or even going to yoga (or doga) classes. Their owners give them the best, and
- 40 enjoy doing so.

- Whether as workers or objects of **affection**, dogs have become beneficial to humans in many ways. There are **plenty** of advantages for the dog, too. Many species of wild dogs
- 45 have nearly disappeared from the Earth. However, the domestic dog's special place as "man's best friend" has allowed it to survive in a human world.

² An **animal shelter** is a place where animals that are lost or have no owners are kept.

³ If a person or an animal is **pampered**, they live a very comfortable life and are treated very well.

For centuries, humans have used beagles to help them hunt and track animals. >



Unit 28 31



Reading Comprehension

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Purpose | 1. The author's purpose in writing is to _____.
a. suggest that dogs be better cared for
b. compare dogs to other helpful animals
c. show examples of how dogs interact with humans
d. show how dogs have not changed over many years |
| Vocabulary | 2. In line 7, <i>by means of</i> could be replaced with _____.
a. by the way
b. as a result of
c. knowing that
d. on the other hand |
| Detail | 3. According to the passage, beagles _____.
a. can be dangerous
b. can protect little children
c. can bring people comfort
d. are good at finding things |
| Detail | 4. According to the passage, some pampered pets _____.
a. eat human food b. go to yoga class
c. work for their owners d. visit hospitals |
| Reference | 5. In line 40, the phrase <i>doing so</i> refers to _____.
a. training their dogs well
b. taking their dogs to work
c. looking after sick children
d. treating their pets very well |
| Detail | 6. What is true about Shaynee and members of the Beagle Brigade?
a. They are working dogs.
b. They visit children.
c. They keep the country safe.
d. They were rescued from a shelter. |
| Main Idea | 7. What would be the best heading for the last paragraph?
a. Dogs of Affection
b. Benefits of Wild Dogs
c. A Special Relationship
d. Everyone Needs a Pet |

Did You Know?

The first creature to go into space was a dog. In 1957, the Soviet Union sent a dog named Laika up in a rocket to circle the Earth.





Vocabulary Practice

A. Matching. Read the information below. Then match each definition below with a word in **red**.

Dogs were probably first attracted to humans by the smell of our **garbage**. Today, some governments have found a use for those powerful noses that is beneficial to all who fly in airplanes. They train dogs to smell, **track**, and find bombs on planes and in **luggage**. The dogs are easy to train because they already have a deep connection to humans. Many of these dogs are **donated** to the program, where they can be given a good home. The partnership between dogs and humans allows each to profit from the special **talents** of the other as they work together to save lives.

1. _____: bags you carry when you travel
2. _____: trash, things you throw away
3. _____: to follow the path of something, to find its location
4. _____: given in order to help a person or an organization
5. _____: better than normal abilities, usually natural

B. Completion. Complete the information using the correct words from the box. One word is extra.

affection garbage obedient plenty rescue select

Each breed of dog has its own role in our world. Some dog breeds, for example, can be trained to 1. _____ people after an accident. Other breeds help protect our homes. People usually 2. _____ breeds like German shepherds, rottweilers, and bull mastiffs to be guard dogs. These dogs can be fierce—and dangerous at times. If well-trained, however, they are 3. _____ pets that can provide their owners with 4. _____ of attention, as well as love and 5. _____.

Thesaurus

talent Also look up:
(n.) ability, aptitude, gift

German shepherds are known for their strength and intelligence. They make good working dogs. ➤

