Beau – The Barking Genius[1]

We've all heard stories about dogs that can do tricks, but Beau's story is truly amazing[2]. Believe it or not, this 12-year-old dog from Montana, U.S.A., can solve math problems[3]!

Beau's owner, David Madsen, first noticed[4] Beau's intelligence when he was a puppy. That's when he decided to teach his pet math. How did he do this? First he put one dog biscuit[5] in front of Beau and taught him to bark once. Next, he added another biscuit and taught him to bark twice. Then he took one away and taught him to bark once. Madsen continued doing this with more dog biscuits. Each time Beau barked the right number of times, Madsen gave him a biscuit.

After a while, Beau learned to do math without dog biscuits. He can now answer what 2 + 3 is by barking five times. Beau can also solve problems like: "There are five dogs in the park. Three dogs leave. How many dogs are left?" But Beau's math skills[6] don't end there. Beau can tell you how old he is (though the answer is quite noisy), and he can even solve simple math problems that are written on a piece of paper. For example, Beau barks three times when he sees the problem 3x = 9, x = .

Beau barks the right answer about 85% of the time. But there's one kind of question that he always gets wrong. When Madsen asks him what 4 - 4 is, Beau just starts barking and doesn't stop because he doesn't understand what zero[7] means.

[1] genius عبقري / גאון
[2] truly amazing مدهش حقًا / באמת מדהים
[3] math problems مشاكل رياضياتية / בעיות מתמטיות
[4] noticed لاحظ / הבחין
[5] dog biscuit بسكويت الكلاب / עוגיות לכלבים
[6] skills مهارات / כישורים
[7] zero صفر / אפס

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B Answer the questions in your notebook.

1. How is Beau different from other dogs? (lines 1-2)
2. CHOOSE THE TWO CORRECT ANSWERS.
   What does the writer explain in lines 3-8?
   a. why Madsen studied math
   b. why Madsen used dog biscuits
   c. how Madsen taught his dog math
   d. how long Madsen trained Beau
   e. when Madsen gave Beau a dog biscuit
3. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.
   According to lines 3-8, Beau got a biscuit when … .
4. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. (lines 1-13)
   The writer says it is noisy when Beau answers how old he is because … .
5. What information is given in lines 9-15?
   a. what Beau likes to eat
   b. where Madsen takes Beau for walks
   c. what questions Beau can answer
6. What do we learn about Beau in lines 9-15?
   a. He can't answer how old he is.
   b. He can solve simple math problems.
   c. He always gets a dog biscuit when he gets the answer right.
7. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. (lines 16-21)
   When the answer to a math problem is zero, Beau … .
8. Another title for this article could be:
   a. Beau – The Smart Dog
   b. Beau – The Math Teacher
   c. Beau Can't Count

C Would you like to have Beau as a pet? Why or why not?

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