

**College Guild**  
PO Box 6448, Brunswick ME 04011

# DOGS

## Unit 1 of 4

Welcome to College Guild's course, DOGS. Answer everything in **bold** print. When we receive a completed Unit back, you'll be sent the next one, along with your original work and feedback from your reader. You don't need to return the questions – it saves us both postage. Take the time to read the questions thoroughly and find the most creative way to word your answers. There is no specific deadline to complete any Unit, but we would get concerned if we hadn't heard back from you in 2-3 months. You can ask for an extension if your own circumstances make that necessary. Remember how often the mail service loses things, and if you don't hear back from us after a month, write to make sure your Unit was received and the next Unit sent out.

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*“Outside of a dog, a book is probably man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.”*

~ Groucho Marx ~

Here is how an encyclopedia published way back in 1911 defines the dog:

*A digitigrade, carnivorous animal, forming the type of the genus *Canis*, which includes also the wolf, jackal, and fox.*

It's not known exactly how dogs evolved. Most scientists believe that today's dog is a descendent of the wolf. Dogs are the oldest domestic animals with remains dating back to the Stone Age.



Men and dogs have been together for a very long time. This cave painting is from approximately 10,000 years ago! It shows a Stone Age hunter who has successfully killed an eland with the help of his dogs.

**1. How would you define dogs?**

**2. How would that cave-dog be different from the dogs of today?**

The husky, or sled dog, looks a little like a wolf, and it has been a form of transportation for the Eskimo people for generations. In the Arctic, especially during the months when ice prevents travel by boat, they were indispensable. Huskies participate in the most strenuous competition a dog can undertake – the Iditarod.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race commemorates a famous midwinter emergency mission to get medical supplies to Nome, Alaska during a 1925 diphtheria epidemic. (Diphtheria is a dangerous bacterial infection with only rare cases in the United States.) The Iditarod is a 1159 mile race from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska using teams of sled dogs! The annual contest began in 1973.

Teams of so-called sled dogs are still used to pull sleds over snow-covered terrain. The dog teams are organized much like a wolf pack, with a leader or king, whose movement coordinate the activities of the other animals. Most members of the team attend only to the leader and pay little attention to the human driver.



3. Why do people enter such a grueling race?
4. How do the dogs feel about participating in the Iditarod?
5. What would the racer do to ensure the dogs are doing OK?

No matter what the dogs or their owners do in their spare time, they both need good health care.

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a doctor for humans vs. a doctor for animals?
7. Would you prefer to be a veterinarian or a human doctor? Why?



*Dandie Dinmont and his terriers as portrayed for Sir Walter Scott's 1815 Novel, Guy Mannering. This is a breed with courage and pluck, but for whom evidence of intelligence is clearly lacking.*



*A terrier competing in a modern dog show.*

Another kind of competition for dogs is the dog show. There are two main types of dog show competitions. One of these involves judgements of the various breeds by so-called breed standards. Judges are specialists on the characteristics of the various breeds, such as bone structure, coloring, and proportions of head and limbs. These dogs have been trained to walk or run at the exact pace of their handlers (known as "loose leash" handling), and they are groomed so that every piece of fur is in place. Another kind of dog show tests or measures various skills. Competitive events are timed and include jumping over hurdles, crawling through tubes, jumping through hoops, and climbing ladders or other barriers; in other words, a complicated obstacle course.

**8. Write a letter from an owner to her best friend after her dog's participation in a dog show.**

**9. Write a 10-year-old's school report about a dog show which will be handed in to his teacher.**

**10. Write a story about a dog show from the dog's point of view.**

Various breeds of dogs differ in many ways. Here are examples of 6 different personalities:

A – Cool and reserved with strangers. Their aloofness should not be confused with shyness. Affectionate to those chosen to be friends. Intelligent but very independent with a touch of arrogance. Sometimes stubborn. Not ideal with children.

B – Silent and aloof. Very strong minded. An excellent guard. Very much a one-man dog. Has a mind of his own and will not be forced into doing anything. He would die for you but not obey you.

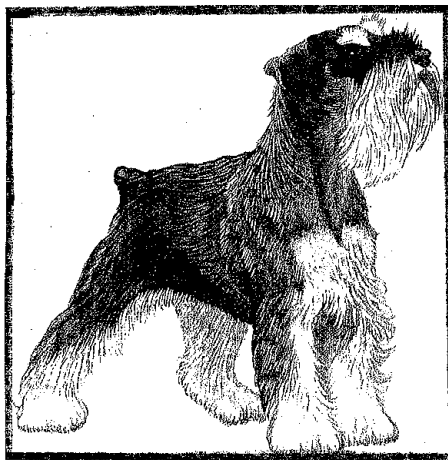
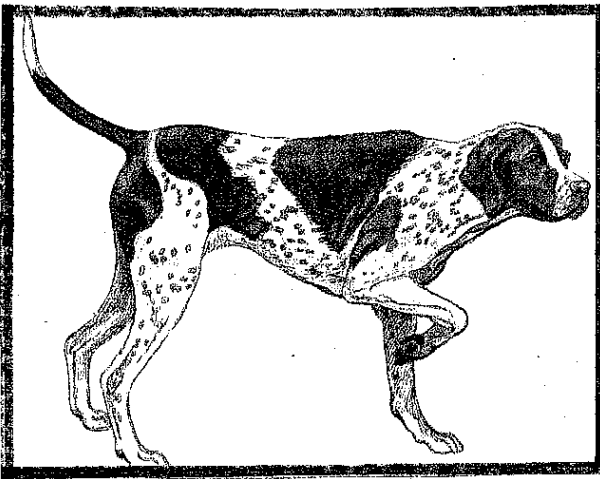
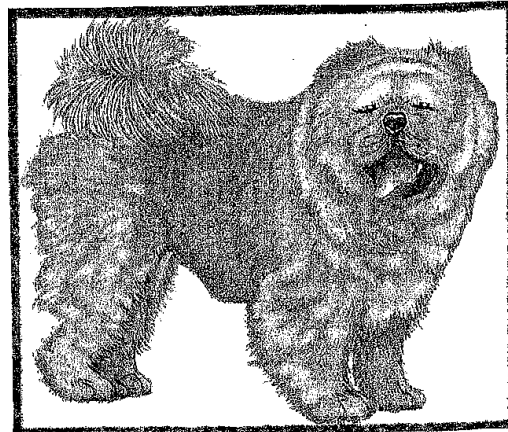
C – Very adaptable dog. Obedient and eager to please. Kind, even disposition. Aristocratic. Alert and never tiring. Intelligent and obedient. Quick to learn and very eager to please. Devoted, loyal and extremely sensitive.

D – Depending on how you raise this breed, it can be a sensitive little soul, easily frightened, or a happy, outgoing dog that is rarely fearful. Intelligent, relishing companionship. Can put on a tremendous burst of speed in pursuit of a rabbit.

E – Fearless and all-knowing. Reliable and intelligent. Larger dogs used by the Army during war-time as message carriers. Affectionate, obedient and good guards.

F – A friendly, intelligent dog making it a good family pet. Lively but self-controlled. Perceptive with an excellent memory. Easy to train. Watchful, bright and always alert. A good watch dog. Hardy and even-tempered.

Below are six dogs.



1 – Borzoi

2 – Chow Chow

3 – Pointer

4 – Greyhound

5 – Schnauzer

6 - Sheepdog

**11. Match each of the previous descriptions to the appropriate breed. (Answers are below.)**

Take only one of these features from each of the 6 dogs: leg length, fur, nose, ears, tail and color pattern.

**12. Which feature are you taking from each dog?**

**borzoi**

**chow chow**

**schnauzer**

**greyhound**

**sheep dog**

**pointer**

*Example: leg length-greyhound; fur-sheepdog; nose-schnauzer; ears-chow chow; tail-pointer; color pattern-borzoi*

**13. Draw a picture of the resulting dog.**

**14. What would you name this breed and what would you name this new dog?**

**15. Describe a typical owner for each of the 6 breeds from the information given.**

**16. Draw a picture of one of these owners!**

**17. Pick one of the 6 dogs and write a story with the dog as a hero.**

**18. What are some advantages and disadvantages of owning a tiny dog?**

**19. What are some advantages and disadvantages of owning an extra-large dog?**

**20. Write a poem about anything, but each line has to start with a letter from the word BREED. (Remember that poems don't have to rhyme.)**

Example:

**B**ells in the steeple

**R**ing to signal

**E**vening, and soon

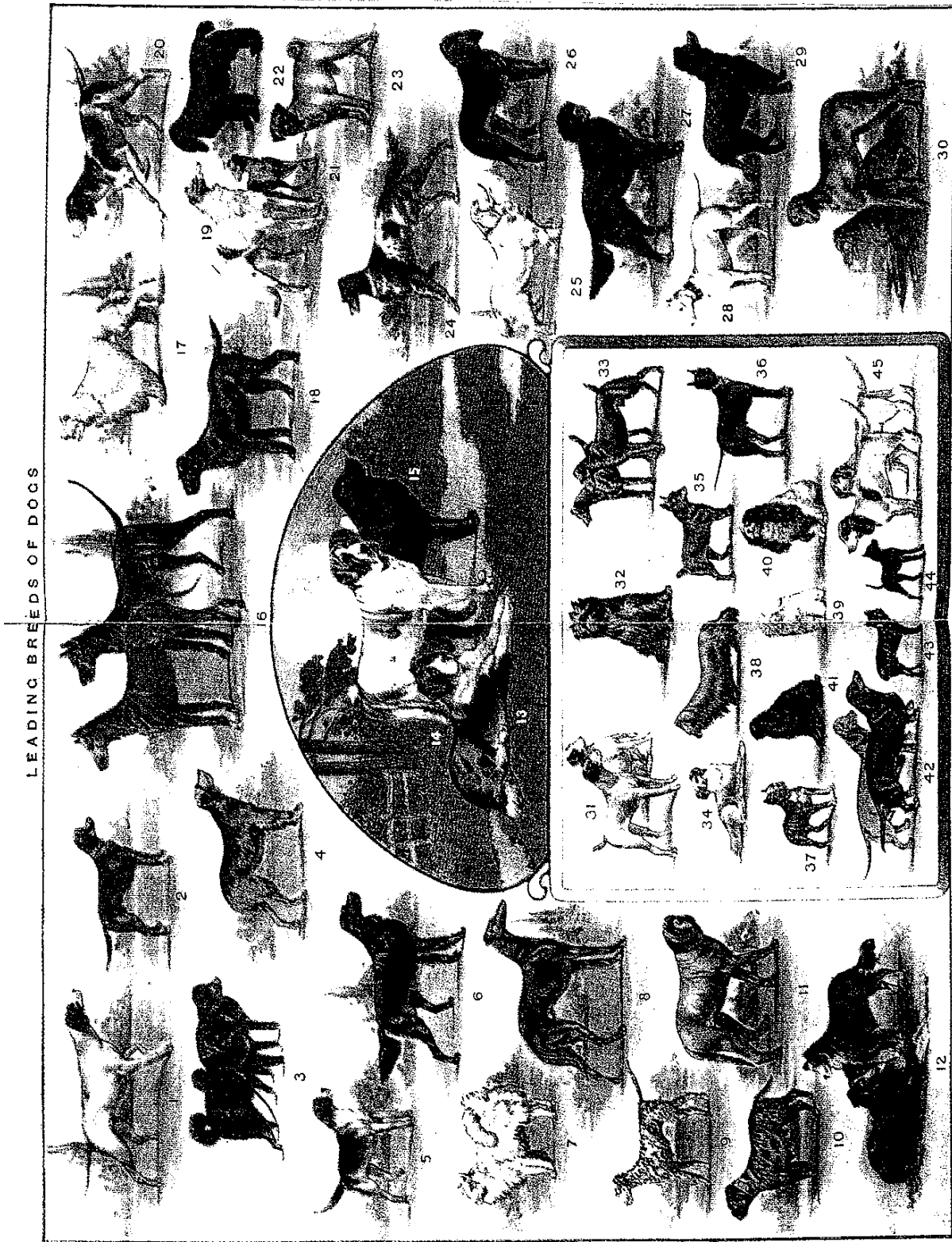
**E**veryone will go to sleep and

**D**ream about bells

Answers to #11: A - Borzoi, B - Chow Chow, C - Pointer, D - Greyhound, E - Sheepdog, F - Schnauzer



Remember that 1911 Encyclopedia? It may have had a professional definition, but it also contained this beautiful drawing in its pages –



LEADING BREEDS OF DOGS

COPYRIGHT, 1910, BY F. WRIGHT.  
 1. English Pointer, 2. Bull Terrier, 3. Eskimo Dog, 4. Alsatian Terrier, 5. Foxhound, 6. Irish Setter, 7. Spitz, 8. Greyhound, 9. Dalmatian Coach Dog, 10. English Bulldog, 11. Mastiff, 12. Collie, 13. Rough Coated St. Bernard, 14. Scotch Collie, 15. Newfoundland, 16. Great Dane, 17. Blood, 18. Kough Coated German Pointer, 19. Russian Wolfhound, 20. Smooth Coated German Pointer, 21. Irish Setter, 22. Fox Terrier, 23. Yorkshire Terrier, 24. Papillon, 25. Dog, 26. English Setter, 27. Chumbeur Spaniel, 28. Bull Terrier, 29. Irish Water Spaniel, 30. Scotch Deerhound, 31. Fox Terrier, 32. Yorkshire Terrier, 33. Irish Terrier, 34. Papillon, 35. Scotch Terrier, 36. Black and Tan Terrier, 37. Boston Terrier, 38. Skye Terrier, 39. Maltese Terrier, 40. King Charles Spaniel, 41. King Charles Spaniel, 42. King Charles Spaniel, 43. French Bulldog, 44. Terrier, 45. League Hounds.

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*Remember: First names only & please let us know if your address changes*

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