

## Man's best friend

WORKSHEET A

Even if they don't own a dog, most people can understand why this animal is known as 'man's best friend'. Dogs can do useful work for humans (guard dogs and guide dogs are just two examples), and it is difficult to think of any other animal that can show a person such loyalty and affection. In the words of the nineteenth-century American writer Josh Billings, 'A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than you love yourself'.

The close relationship between humans and dogs began many thousands of years ago, probably when wolves, the wild ancestors of today's domestic dogs, started entering human settlements in search of food. Nowadays, tens of millions of people around the world have pet dogs. In Britain, for example, the human population of around 60 million has 7.5 million dogs, which is slightly more than the total number of cats.

There are dozens of breeds of dog, of different colours and sizes, as well as a huge number of mongrels that are a mixture of different breeds. In both Britain and the United States the most popular breed is the Labrador, which has a very friendly, playful nature and usually gets on very well with children.

Most dogs live for between twelve and fourteen years, though some breeds can reach the age of eighteen. Dogs need regular exercise, and as they are naturally social animals they also need company – if left alone for a long time they seem to feel lonely in the same way that humans do.

There are, of course, a lot of famous dogs in books and on television. For example there is Lassie, the collie who is always rescuing her owner from dangerous situations and has been the star of books, television shows and movies. There is the little white dog, Snowy, who follows his owner on many adventures in the *Tintin* comic books. And on the television show *The Simpsons*, you can see Santa's Little Helper, the greyhound that belongs to the Simpson family.

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WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps. 8p

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) wild animals similar to dogs
2. \_\_\_ (verb) have; possess
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) unhappy because you are not with other people
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) a feeling of liking and caring about someone or something
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) personality; character
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) living in a person's home; not wild
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) an exciting, unusual, and sometimes dangerous experience
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) to save someone from a dangerous or unpleasant situation

### Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D). 10p

1. 'Mongrel' is a word for a type of dog.
2. In *The Simpsons*, Santa's Little Helper is a Labrador.
3. In Britain there are more cats than dogs.
4. Dogs always show people a lot of affection.
5. Humans have had a close relationship with dogs for about a thousand years.
6. Dogs don't seem to enjoy being left alone for a long time.
7. Snowy is not a large dog.
8. There are around 60 million dogs in Britain.
9. Collies are a breed of cat.
10. Some breeds of dog only live for eight or nine years.

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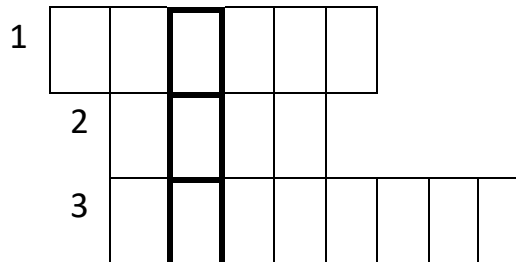
## Man's best friend

WORKSHEET C

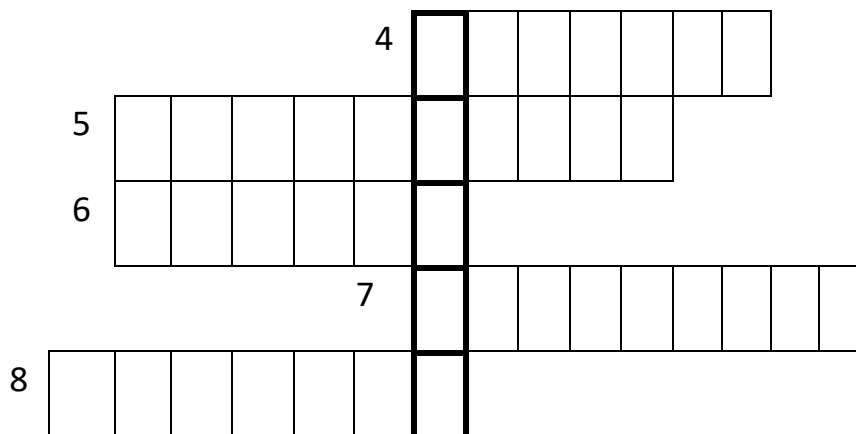
### Exercise 3

10p

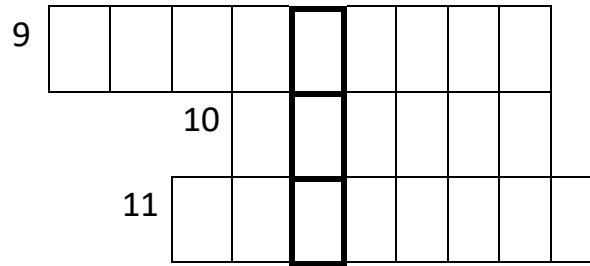
Complete the three crosswords below. If all the words are correct, the crosswords will reveal the most popular dog's name in Britain today, followed by the second and third most popular names.



1. Dogs and \_\_\_\_\_ have had a close relationship for a very long time.
2. There are slightly fewer than 7.5 million \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain.
3. Dogs need a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.



4. Mongrels are a \_\_\_\_\_ of different breeds of dog.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ are a breed of dog.
6. Dogs are \_\_\_\_\_ animals, which is why they need company.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ are very friendly and playful dogs.
8. Dogs usually show great \_\_\_\_\_ to the people who own them.



9. Wolves are the \_\_\_\_\_ of dogs.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is a collie.
11. Santa's Little Helper lives with the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**LANGUAGE TASK: (TAALTAAK)**

**/40p**

**Exercise 4:**

Your dog (or possibly another of your pets) has just died. Tell a good friend what kind of dog it was (breed (=ras), appearance, age, name, character, behaviour towards you and to other people).

**You will have to write a draft first. Use the space below for this.**

Final result (after you have made the draft)