Who's Your Dream Dog?
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Pet Corner

What do you think this cat sees? What do you think scares a cat? What kinds of things scare or startle you? Have you seen anyone scare a cat on purpose? How do you feel about this? Is this OK? Why or why not?

Where do you go to find answers to your questions? Do you ask a parent? A teacher? Do you “Google It”? These are just a few ways to do research. Can you think of a way to make sure your research is as accurate or true as possible?

How many of these fear emotions do you know? Check off those you know and research those you don’t.

- Terrified
- Started
- Nervous
- Hesitant
- Submissive
- Helpless
- Worried
- Anxious
- Frightened
- Scared
- Insecure
- Overwhelmed

Download “Raja Book 3” to read the final conclusion to The Restricted Adventures of Raja and to play Jarbo’s Jinx.

MUTTS
by Patrick McDonnell

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Fourteen sixth graders walk into a dog kennel. It’s loud with barking, and paws begin rising up on the kennel doors to greet them. Armed with books, freeze-dried chicken liver, and a lot of dog-training know-how, the students sit down and get to work. First, books are read, and the room becomes quiet. Then, the training begins. “Watch me!” a student says. She waits until the dog looks her in the eye, and the student gives the dog a treat. Later, they’ll go outside and work on “Sit,” “Down,” “Stay,” and “Come.”

The students are part of Canine Commandos, a program of 25 fifth- and sixth-grade classes in the Brevard County, Florida School District who help train dogs at three local animal shelters. When they go back to school, the dogs will be ready to look an adopter in the eye and behave well for that important first meeting. The students will be ready to work on science, art, and English projects about dogs and homeless pets.

“Not all dogs get adopted easily,” says student Riley R. “Canine Commandos allows them to have a greater chance in getting wonderful homes because of our training. The experiences we have with each dog is amazing!”

According to adopter feedback, 63% said they chose a dog because of the program. “Many people looking to adopt dogs are wanting them to be child-friendly,” says Virginia Hamilton, a teacher and President & CEO of Canine Commandos. “What better proof than dogs that have worked with children?”
Humans have been living side by side with dogs for many thousands of years. Today, there are over 200 different breeds of dogs! But what is a breed and how did they come to be?

Early on, people learned that having dogs around could be helpful. Dogs could bark as an alarm to alert others that some person or animal was approaching. They could see and smell prey and help humans hunt. They could eat leftover food, making clean-up easier. And, of course, they could make wonderful, loving companions. People learned that if a male and female dog with similar traits had puppies together, the puppies looked and acted like the parents! So, people began breeding for traits they liked the most—alarm barking, hunting abilities, friendliness, coat color, size, and so on.

Researchers think the Basenji is one of the oldest dog breeds because images of Basenji-like dogs appear in ancient Egyptian art! Research the Basenji to find out the traits for which the breed is known.
How do you find the perfect dog for your family?

Although it can be helpful to pick a breed that may be more likely to have traits your family wants, there are no guarantees! That adorable golden retriever puppy, who you think may be sweet and easy to train, could be super hyper or aggressive or chew up your favorite stuffed animals whenever you leave him alone for a minute! Purebred dogs may also have more health issues, since breeding for specific traits reduce genetic variability which means there are fewer genes that cause traits to appear. When there are fewer genes, there is a higher chance the genes of Mom and Dad will pair up to pass on unhealthy traits, like hip or skin problems.

If your heart is set on a purebred dog, many purebred dogs can be found at rescue organizations. Animal shelters will often contact breed-specific rescue organizations to come pick up purebred dogs when they come into a shelter, so search online sites such as Petfinder.com to find a rescue organization that has the right dog for you and your family.

PUPPY MILLS

Keep in mind, most purebred puppies sold in pet stores or online come from high-volume breeding facilities where profit almost always comes before animal health and happiness. Adopting an adult dog from an animal shelter or rescue organization is also a great way to know what your dog’s personality is already like—rather than having to guess with a puppy. And, best of all, you are giving a new, better life to an animal—both you and your new dog will feel good about that!

If you were to describe the perfect dog for you what would he or she be like? Would you like a dog who loved to run and play or a dog that preferred to cuddle with you on the couch? What if you and your family love a certain breed of dog or you are looking for certain traits—like fur that won’t make you sneeze—but you can’t find a dog with traits that you are looking for at your local shelter? Guess what! There are now many ways you can search for breeds or traits you like online!

Check out these websites:

Petfinder: www.petfinder.com
The Shelter Pet Project: www.theshelterpetproject.org
BarkBuddy: www.barkbuddy.com
Adopt A Pet: www.adoptapet.com
How does the sense of smell work?

Think of your favorite scent—is it freshly baked cookies, or a hot pizza coming out of the oven? Whatever it is, a dog could smell it 10,000 times better! In fact, smelling is what dogs do best. They have more than 220 million olfactory receptors in their noses, while humans only have about 5 million.

But how do noses work? When we smell something like a peanut butter sandwich, we’re actually smelling hundreds of tiny little pieces of that sandwich, called molecules, that are floating in the air. These molecules end up in our nose. Inside our nose, at the very top, we have millions of tiny olfactory receptors. When the molecules reach the receptors, our brain and our nose work together to figure out what we’re smelling. That’s why we sniff to smell something better—it helps the molecules reach the top of our nose!
What makes a bird a bird? Believe it or not, it’s not the ability to fly. There are a few types of birds that cannot fly, such as penguins, emus, ostriches, and kiwis. All birds do share some common traits: they all have wings and feathers, and they lay eggs.

Instead of using them to fly, Emperor Penguins’ feathers and wings help them survive the climate of Antarctica. Their feathers act like a big, warm winter coat, keeping them warm in the harsh winters. Their wings act like flippers, helping them to “fly” quickly through the ocean to catch fish.

Ostriches also cannot fly, but they are great runners. When they run, their wings help them keep balance. Their wings and feathers also help them to communicate with other ostriches. An ostrich might lift up its wings and tail feathers to show dominance, or that they’re the boss!

DIY Origami Pet

Instructions:
1. Place a square colored piece of paper color side down so that it makes a diamond shape.
2. Fold the paper across the center to make a triangle.
3. Fold the top two corners of the triangle together and unfold them. Fold the top two corners of the triangle down to create the dogs’ ears.
4. Flatten your paper out.
5. Fold the bottom corner of the triangle up to make your dog’s nose.
6. Use your crayon or marker to give your dog a face.

Visit the kids’ YouTube Channel, RedRover Reporters, to watch DIY videos and more made by kids!
Meet Atticus

Justin and Alicia rescued Atticus from being sold for meat. Despite being a leader of his herd and having a big, glorious set of horns, Atticus was too gentle and kind-hearted to defend himself when Peanut, another rescued goat, began bullying him.

Peanut kept chasing and attacking Atticus with his horns—resulting in a big wound on Atticus’ rear leg! The veterinarian told Justin and Alicia that it was so serious, Atticus would need to have his leg amputated in order to heal properly.

Justin and Alicia were worried that with only three legs Atticus wouldn’t be able to enjoy all the pleasures of being a goat. But the veterinarian assured them that Atticus would be perfectly healthy and happy on three legs, so they went ahead with the amputation surgery with help from RedRover.

These days this special goat is faster than the whole herd, even on just three legs! Atticus became a father to a healthy baby goat, Cleopatra, and together with his “wife” Rose, they are a happy goat family. Alicia couldn’t help but marvel at Atticus’ new lease on life, saying, “He is so happy and full of life.”

When Atticus the goat needed surgery for a wound on his leg, kind rescuers worked hard to get him the care he needed to live a happy life.

Kind Questions

Now that you’ve read Kind News, challenge yourself with these questions.

1. How do you think Atticus felt when Peanut bullied him? Have you or someone you’ve known been bullied? What did you do?

2. What choices do you have when you see someone being bullied?

3. After reading the article on page 4 and 5, what would be your dream dog, and where would you go to look for him or her?