

A Dog's Life

Science

Know Your Dog

Get to know your dog, cat, or any pet you have. If you don't have one, ask a friend if you can use their pet (be sure to get permission!) Set up an experiment to see what kind of food, color, music, or toy the pet likes best. Decide how you will know what the pet prefers and record your results. For best results, try the experiment with several different pets of the same species. Display your results for pet owners.

Weather Extremes

Research the weather in your area. Record the temperature everyday at the same time for a week or two and graph the results. Look up the temperature for the coldest months and graph them as well. What would a dog need to survive in these temperature extremes? Find out how animals adapt and what shelters work best in the heat and cold to help animals.

Technology

Down on the Farm

Visit <http://www.scholastic.com/dogslife/> to write a tale, explore dog trivia, post pet pictures, see life through Bone's eyes, learn about Ann Martin, and more!

Engineering

Pet Protection

Engineers improve on existing inventions. Take a trip to the pet store and see what is out there to help owners with their pets. Select a product, like a dog bowl, and imagine ways to improve upon it. Feeling enthusiastic? Dream up a way to help pets who have been injured, lost a leg, hurt a paw, or need medical assistance. Draw and label your diagram.

Art

Lend a Hand

Visit your local animal shelter or look online. You should be able to find missing animals and animals in need of adoption. Put your poster-making skills to use. Draw a new poster that draws attention and interest. You can use the original photo and make a frame or other bright words. As the local pet store if you can display your work on their lost and found wall.

Blue Dog

Research the Blue Dog art of George Rodrigue (<http://www.georgerodrigue.com/>) and then draw your own. Put the Blue Dog into costume, dress him in clothes from your heritage, or send him to a party. It's the summer, so let Blue Dog take a dip in the pool or lounge by the water slide.

Treats

Find homemade dog treats online and bake up some for your pootch or your dog friends. Be sure to ask the owner if it is ok before giving a treat to a pet!

Math

Dog's Life

They say a year in a dog's life is like 7 for a human. If that is true, how old would you be if you were a dog? How old is a dog after the typical lifespan of 12 years? Other people say that the first year of a dog's life is like 13 for humans, but then 6 years for each year after that. Calculate how old you would be in dog years if that were true.

Dog Expense

A dog usually lives 10-13 years. You have to have your dog vaccinated each year, cared for when you are away, and fed regularly. Figure out the cost of purchasing a dog and then add the cost of caring for him over his lifetime.

Recommended Resources

StudyJams Scientific Method: <http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/jams/science/scientific-inquiry/scientific-methods.htm>

Math Hunt Managing Money: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/mathhunt/StartGame.asp?QuizID=31>

Poster Maker: http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/Printing_Press/

Dog Age Calculator: <http://www.coolmath.com/calculators/dogyears.htm>

Author Ann M. Martin: <http://www.scholastic.com/annmartin/>