

Dogs and stray dogs

*A book specially designed for children
about dogs and stray dogs*

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***Edition in honor of the World Stray Animal Day on 4th April
In cooperation with Stray Animal Foundation Platform,
Animal Medical Care Foundation & Dog Research***

With thanks to Andrea Kruis for her amazing drawings!

Informative book about dogs and stray dogs

Why this book?

To tell you about dogs.

How a dog lives, what a dog needs and how a dog 'thinks'.

It's about dogs and stray dogs that you have probably seen on holiday and especially about: how can we help the stray dogs!

All of us, you and I can do something or even a lot to help the sad stray dogs be less sad. Will you help?



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Western Europe – dog countries

Most western countries (United Kingdom, USA, the Netherlands, Germany etc.) are real dog countries – in nearly 15 to 20% of the households, the dog is part of the family. That is a total of millions and millions of dogs!

Logical, because with a dog you can have fun playing, running but also stretched out onto the couch watching TV. Your dog is also a buddy who is always there for you. It doesn't matter to him whether you talk or not, if you are there for him, he is there for you!

In fact, children can be healthier if they have a dog. That has been officially researched and proven. Children with a dog have less often infections and they use less antibiotics. Funny, because some people think that a dog is 'dirty'.



**'In a perfect world, every dog has a home
.... and every home has a dog'.**

Taking good care of your dog

If you have a dog, it is fine if it is well taken care of. A dog needs food, water and a dry place to sleep.

A dog is very easy and adapts to us quite quickly. One dog for instance might eat once a day whereas another might eat twice or even three times a day. A dog has a very different tract than us humans. We humans are accustomed to eat everything: vegetables, bread, pasta and meat or meat replacers. Dogs can also eat a great variety - depending on what the owner feeds the dog. Some dogs only get dog pellets – that is easy en clean for the owner. Another dog only gets food made by the owner himself or eats whatever the owners eat. Did you know that dogs previously used to eat whatever the owners ate and that was quite normal. That wasn't even that long ago. Your grandmother or great grandfather would have fed the dog this way. Some dogs also eat special canned food for dogs and others eat soaked pellets.



Because the dog adapted so easily to men, the dog started living closely to humans. The way a dog lives, depends greatly on which country we live in. So live dogs in the Netherlands mainly indoors, but in Turkey, Greece or Morocco mainly outdoors. Sometimes a dog is seen as a great friend, sometimes as a working animal and sometimes as a child or a vermin. The way people interact with a dog differs and also depends on culture, believe, country of origin and climate.

A dog would rather not be alone

Actually, your dog prefers to live in a group – that is called a pack. Just as the animal it descends from, the wolf. In a family, it is the people living in the house that form the pack. The dog is the happiest when being with you the whole day! Just as it would be for you, it is not good for the dog to be alone the whole day. Sometimes dogs shows that very clearly by crying very loudly (howling) or by destroying things because they are so nervous being alone for so long. Very often, people also do things that are not good, when they are alone and therefore unhappy. Dogs are very unhappy when they are alone for a long time and that is why they are so happy when you come home! A young dog (puppy) cannot be alone for more than two hours. A grown dog grows bored after about four hours of being alone....



Who looks after me?

A dog needs taking care of. For instance by looking at him closely that he is not sick or has an infected ear or dirty eyes and does not have a smelly breath (then he has plague and must go the vet) or that he has a wound somewhere or..... you know, just like people that live together and look after each other.

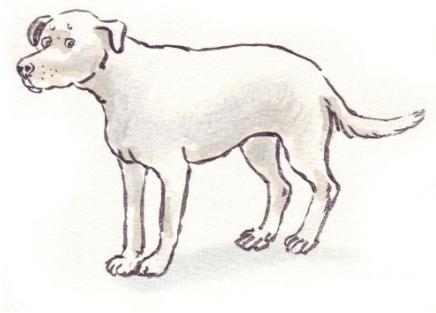


Because if you are sick, you need to be looked after. The same applies to the dog. Only a dog can't tell you that he is sick: you as his caregiver need to be able to see that. A dog will tell you that he is sick, but in his behavior: he sleeps more, does not really want to play or does not eat so well or nothing at all or drinks nothing or very much.

I see, I see what you don't see!

It is not that easy to see what a dog feels. That, you have to learn by watching the dog's body language.

Can you see from these pictures, how this dog is feeling? You can choose from: happy, scared, angry and relaxed.





This dog is very scared. You can see that by the tail between his legs and the dog is trying to make himself smaller. Eye contact is difficult for this dog. You help him the most by ignoring him and pretend that you don't see him.



This dog is happy. His body is relaxed while his tail is wagging and he is saying: hi, I like you, will you play with me? If his body is tight, he can still be wagging his tail. Then he is quite excited and is it better to ignore him.



This dog is relaxed and is feeling good. If is your own dog, go ahead and pet him under the chin. If the dog belongs to someone else, you can ask if you may scratch him under the chin. The dog is probably curious about you and most likely will want to smell you.



Oops, this dog is angry. He shows his teeth and stands tight. He might be growling. His tail is up and he is actually saying that he will bite if you come any closer. Don't look at this dog, do not walk away but stand quietly until this dog has walked on, or his owner has taking him away.

Scared of dogs?

There are more people afraid of dogs than you would expect. If someone is afraid of dogs, it is important to determine why. Maybe because a dog can bite? It is the good to know then that you can see it when a dog does not want to be approached. When a dog avoids you, when he shows teeth, when he stands tight, when he growls or when his tail is between his legs it is better not to approach the dog (see illustrations page 10). And always ask the handler first if you can touch the dog.



There are quite a few misunderstandings about dog behavior because people do not always understand dogs. A lot of people think that a dog with a wagging tail is a contented dog. But that is not always true. A swishing tail can also mean that the dog is irritated or excited. The equivalent of a human being making a fist. You are not going to hit someone straight away, but if you make a fist, you mean: I don't like this, stop it. With a dog, you have to look at the combinations of signals, for instance the tail in combination with the position of the ears and if the dog shows his teeth or the white of his eyes. When you are afraid and a dog approaches you best thing you can do is stand still, don't make eye contact and just ignore the dog. It seems difficult to stand still and ignore something you are afraid of but if you do the dog will lose his interest in you and will go away.

Dog breeds

Some people want dogs to look a particular way, according to specific characteristics of a breed – so called purebreds. There are more than 400 breeds. The purebreds differ in size, but also by their ears, eyes, coat and tail. There are all types of tails: long or short, thick or thin, with a lot of hair or nearly none, straight-up or hanging, rigid or with a curl.

Did you know that some characteristics are very discomforting for a dog himself? You have for instance breeds that have a very flat nose, that are therefore always short of breath and always have a cold as the nose is too short. There are dogs that have so many wrinkles, that they always have infections with itchiness. There are also breeds that have been made that way (that's called over breeding) that have bad hips and therefore a lot of pain. There are also dogs with a too small skull, causing them to always have a headache. Quite funny, don't you think that animals are bred for their appearance causing them to be unhealthy. It's a good thing that your parents have not chosen you for your looks, don't you agree?



Human-dog interaction rules

Dogs see all children under the age of 12 as pups. And pups must be educated – that’s the instinct of every dog. Some dogs are somewhat stricter than others. But all dogs counts that the dog believes: all kids under 12 need to listen and do as I say. The trouble with that is that dogs think differently than us humans and therefore dogs also let us know in a different way what he wants. That is why it is so important to have your father or mother with you when you are with your dog. They can then explain what is happening. There are a few rules of the game to stick to when interacting with your dog. If you stick to those rules, nothing can happen. So learn these rules of by heart!



1. If you see a strange dog, even if you own a dog yourself, ask first if you may pet the dog. Some dogs don't like being petted by strangers – not even if it is you!
2. When you look a dog straight into the eyes, the dogs interprets that as cheeky. Dogs hardly even look each other straight into the eyes – Take a close look at the dogs around you. So never look a dog straight into the eyes! It seems difficult, but people can also watch by looking past the dog. You still see everything, but are not staring into the dog's eyes.
3. Running for a dog is like hunting. If you run towards a dog, the dog might think that you want to chase him and he can feel threatened and might bite. For a dog, it is scary, if you run straight towards him.

4. If you run away from the dog, he thinks that he can chase you like a prey. That could start as a little game, but you can also become frightened by a big dog running after you.
5. Don't hug the dog by putting your arms around his neck, but give him a pat on his back or tickle him under his chin. If you hug a dog with both arms, he can feel trapped and could start to defend himself.
6. Never pat the dog on his head, but only on the chest or neck. A lot of dogs don't like being petted on their head. They can take a fright and they can think that you want to be the boss.
7. Playing with your dog is fun, but don't do any pull or frolic games with your dog, like for instance pulling a rope. To a dog, this might not be a game, but measuring who is the boss. If your dog wins and he takes the rope from you, your dog will think: I won and I am the boss! That is not good for you, but also not for the dog.
8. Your dog is not a brother or sister that you play with and you need to take care that you play differently with your dog than with your friends. You must for instance never lie on top of your dog – that can hurt him. And don't let the dog lie on top of you, as the dog will then think that he is your boss. That is also called instinct.
9. If a dog is eating, you may not disturb him and never take his food away. Stay away from his food bowl, his bones and other food as the dog might start protecting it and attack you, because he might think that you want to eat his food. Just imagine, you sit behind a plate of chips and then someone takes it away from you. Even if it is your sister, you will probably get quite mad and take the food back. That's exactly what the dog does and he could bite you. Logical, don't you think?
10. Let sleeping dogs lie. If you suddenly wake him, can take a fright and start to growl or bite by accident. Take yourself for example; you are dreaming happily away and then in the middle of the night, someone suddenly awakes you.... Maybe you get a terrible fright or you become angry because you had a very nice dream.



11. Don't go and sleep in de dog's bench or in the place the dog normally sleeps. That place is only for the dog, so that he can retreat and rest if he wants to. If you then don't leave him in peace, he can become angry. That can happen very fast, as he has nowhere to go to at that point in time. He lies in his bench and can go nowhere and is there only one possibility. Oops! The place where the dogs sleep is just like your bedroom. Sometimes you just want some time for yourself and be left in peace. The same goes for your dog.
12. If there is a problem with your dog, do not resolve it yourself, but ask your parents to come. If your dog has taken one of your toys and you really want it back, ask your parents and don't take it yourself. If the dog does not do what you want, don't go and scream or pull at the dog. Ask your parents for help. That way you are very smart and the dog will never bite you!

Chained dog

Abroad, dogs live very differently than in the Netherlands or England or Germany. Most of the dogs in the warmer countries do not live indoors, but outdoors. Sometimes they are only allowed in the garden, sometimes also on the terrace or veranda, but sometimes they are chained with or without a shelter and sometimes they live on the street and does the owner not really look after them. That is not nice to see and probably ruins your holiday completely.



Being chained is a terribly life for a dog. A dog should by nature be allowed to run and play and scatter, walking and sniffing around. When chained, he can't do any of that. He can move a few meters in the various directions, but no more than that. Your dog knows every millimeter of the property through and through. Nothing ever happens, never something new to sniff at, never another to play with. It's like you being locked up in the toilet. I would be bored stiff.

Stray dogs – lots of stray dogs

But it can also get worse: there are a lot of dogs in the world that don't have anybody looking after them. No-one that sees that they are sick and no-one that looks after them, because they belong to no-one. These dogs live on the streets and are called strays. You have most probably seen them abroad when on holiday. They don't get any food and have to find their own food. They also don't get any water and also have to find that themselves. When they get sick, they don't get any medicine or any care and have to get better by themselves. Because they already are hungry and thirsty, a lot of them die due to disease. Imagine that you had no one in this world that loved you and no one to take care of you when you are sick – that would really not be nice!

That is why the foundation Stray Animal Foundation Platform, in short (Stray-) AFP, exists. We from the Stray-AFP, do everything to improve the fate of these stray animals. By doing everything, like for instance this booklet, in order for you to know everything about (stray) dogs and especially: so that you will know how you can help the stray dogs!



Do you think that your parents will help us? Then tell them about our website: www.stray-afp.org. Together we can help to get rid of the pain and suffering of these strays! Will you join us?

No

Yes

In some countries, for example the Netherlands, there are no stray dogs anymore. A dog might be left behind tied to a tree, but then most of the times, the dog will be taken to an animal shelter where it will be looked after until a new owner is found. There are more than 650 million dogs in the world, of which is estimated around 350 million are strays. Unbelievable that there are that many, don't you think? Do you know why there are so many dogs? It's because people don't ensure that the females can't get any pups. Each female dog can have two litters of around 8 pups each per year. Half these pups are also female again. The four female pups grow up and also have pups again. And those also have pups again and so on.... Let's calculate how many little dogs one mommy and daddy dog can have in ten years in total:

16 – 32 – 48 – 60 – 76 – 92 – 108 – 124 – 140 – 156

But that is not all..... because all little dogs become big and the females of those also have that many pups..... pfff, can you still keep count?



Why so many stray dogs die

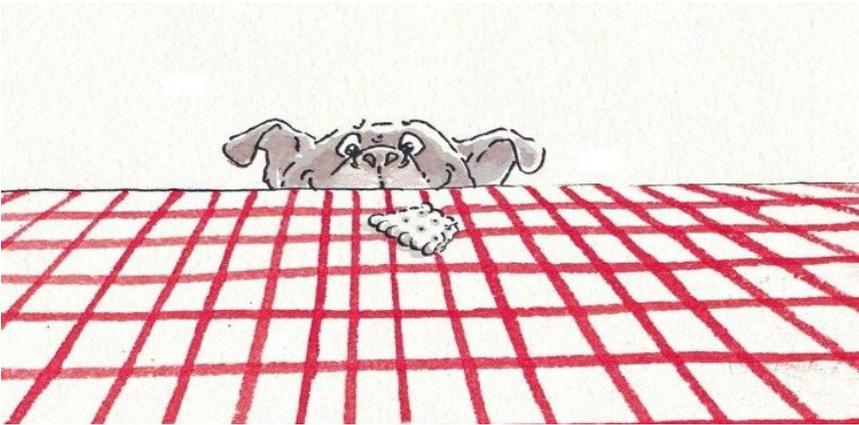
A pup or a litter of pups are very adorable and cute and nice and social and But the misery of so many pups is: there are far too many! There is not enough food and water for all and there are not enough people to take care of the dogs when there are sick. That is why most of the pups die from hunger or thirst. Or they get sick and no-one takes them to the vet to get better and then they also die. Or they can get run over, have all types of wounds and again no-one takes them to the vet and they also die. So from all the dogs that are born, most of them die and that is something we can all do something about together.



That is why it is so extremely important that us people ensure that the dogs cannot have little dogs any more, that is what they call castration. The vet operates the males and the females to make sure that they cannot have any more pups. The operation is not always nice, but does ensure that for each dog, we don't have thousands of animals that are sad and pathetic or die because they have to stray. So operating is better, don't you agree?

Stray dogs and food

Stray dogs find food on the streets by looking for leftovers from people. Stray dogs and stray cats sometimes go begging past the restaurants looking for a piece of bread. A lot of countries don't have rubbish containers, but leave the rubbish openly or just in a garbage bag on the street. In India for example, a lot of garbage is thrown on the side of the road - causing a lot of dogs (and cows) scurrying for food.



Where there is a lot of garbage and leftovers on the streets, you will find a lot of strays. Have you noticed that when you are on holiday?

For every country goes; if you want to do something about the stray dogs, you must make sure that there is no food on the streets. Because the more food lying around, the more dogs, the more litters of pups and therefore more suffering. That might take some getting used to, but you should not feed any strays. As more food ensures more stray suffering.

Reducing the number of stray dogs

There are a lot of people that really want to help the stray dogs. They do this by bringing the dogs to their home countries and ensuring that they get a good home. Maybe you even have a dog from abroad? Amazing work and great to give a dog from abroad a home but there are still more than 350 million dogs (less the one that just got a home) all looking for a home. Where are we going to place them all in these countries?

We can lock all 350 million dogs up in the animal shelters. That will cost a lot of space and money. But even more important: how nice is life for a dog in a cage, if you are used to scavenging freely in the streets? From the fresh outdoors to a small cage. I think not so nice.....

Stray Animal Foundation Platform is very much into every country solving its own stray animal problem. By telling people that it is smart to spay and neuter as many dogs as possible, so that they cannot have any more pups. That's why our idea is: if you want to help a stray when you are on holiday, take it to a vet, to have it castrated or sterilized. That prevents suffering not only to this dog, but also to the hundreds of pups that this dog would otherwise have had!

Furthermore: spayed and neutered dogs also ensure that there is less fighting on the streets as these animals don't really fight anymore. These animals then start to live in groups and is it also more comfortable for people to live with dogs – without any inconvenience. And that in turn ensures that people will not chase the dogs as much or even hurt them!

What can I do!

Are you a little sad now from all this information? I can understand that very well. The world is not always nice but you can do a lot yourself to make sure that the stray dog's life will improve.

How? By doing these things every time:

1. All dogs need to be cared for and to be able to do that, you need to love them (they call that vitamin L for Love).



2. Interact with dogs by always following the dog behavior rules very accurately. If your friends don't know how, then tell them about the dog behavior rules.
3. Ensure that dogs get the things they need: food, fresh water, a hiding- and sleeping place, a playmate and at least 4 walks per day.



4. If you see a dog that needs help or is in trouble: then do something about it. Tell your parents and help the dog by taking it to a vet and have it spayed and neutered. Don't look the other way when on holiday – there you can often do a lot to help the stray animals. I dream of a world without any stray animal suffering and I hope that you share that dream with me!
5. Have a look at our website (www.stray-afp.org) and find the color-in pictures or read all the interesting things. Tell grown-ups that they can also read a lot of information on our website.

I say: let's go for it!!

You have learned a lot about dogs and stray dogs by reading this book. Don't throw this book away, but keep it in order for you to read it again if you have forgotten some things. And also cool, lend this book to someone that doesn't know as much about dogs as you do.

Will you help us to help the stray animals?



How else can you help the stray dogs?

Further on in this book is a little test, call it an exam. Before taking the exam, will you pledge to become a friend for life to the stray dogs? You promise that by writing your name and signature beneath the promise for stray-dog friend for life! That is pretty serious, so take a minute to think about it.

Then you get an exam. If you remember everything about dogs and stray dogs, you then get the great diploma for 'stray dog expert'.



Just as with every other exam, the best is to just go and take the exam for the best chance of passing. If you still have problems with answering the questions, then read this book again..... After that, try the exam for (stray) dog expert again!

Promise that I am a stray dog friend for life!

I,(name),

Born on(birthdate),

understand that :

1. Stray dogs also belong and are part of it all.
2. All dogs, at home and on the streets, need love, attention and care.
3. The best way to help stray dogs is to ensure that less dogs are born.
4. If you want a dog, it's best to get one from an animal shelter.
5. I can help the stray dogs, by telling everybody about them.

By signing this promise, I may participate in the (stray) dog expert exam.

With this signature I promise to stick to the interaction rules for dogs and promise to do all I can to help (stray) dogs as best as I can.

.....

Signature

.....

date

Exam part 1 for dog expert

Question 1

Do you think it is healthy for a child to live with a dog?

- a. no, that's proven not to be healthy for the child
- b. no, that's proven not to be healthy for the dog
- c. yes, that's proven to be healthy for the child

Question 2

How often should a dog at least be walked daily?

- a. twice
- b. three times
- c. four times

Question 3

How long can an adult dog be alone at home?

- a. one hour
- b. two hours
- c. four hours

Question 4

How does a dog prefer to live?

- a. in a family, together with another dog
- b. in a shelter, next to plenty of other dogs
- c. in the outdoors, in a spacious kennel

Question 5

What must you do with a scared dog?

- a. pretend that the dog doesn't exist
- b. quickly go to him to comfort him
- c. put your arms around the dog and give it a big hug

Question 6

What do you do with a growling dog?

- a. you walk up to the dog to tell him that it is ok
- b. you walk very widely passed the dog
- c. you stand as stiff as a pillar and don't look at the dog

Question 7

How does a dog "say" that there is something he doesn't like?

- a. the dog drops his front legs with his backside up
- b. the dog growls softly
- c. the dog goes and lies on his back

Question 8

Which (stand of) ears don't exist by dogs?

- a. curling ears
- b. tipped ears
- c. hanging ears

Question 9

Why is it that breeding of certain breeds not always nice for a dog?

- a. because they can get health problems
- b. a dog doesn't always like a long tail
- c. a dog living in a cold country, does not want to have s short coat

Question 10

How can you help dogs to be better understood?

- a. you can't, helping is simply not possible at your age
- b. by explaining to your friends what the interaction rules are
- c. dogs must learn to express themselves better

Question 11

What does a dog think of you when you look him straight into his eyes?

- a. rude – are you looking for a fight?
- b. sweet – he will kindly look back at you
- c. weird – he doesn't understand what you want of him

Question 12

What does a dog think when you run very fast towards him?

- a. nice, we are going to play!
- b. oh help, I am being hunted and need to defend myself
- c. Hey! There is a prey which I am going to chase

Question 13

Does a dog like it when you put both your arms around him?

- a. no, the dog finds it scary as you want to be the boss
- b. yes, he would love to embrace you with both his front paws as well
- c. no, a dog doesn't like hugs and kisses at all

Question 14

How would a dog preferably be cuddled?

- a. petting on his head
- b. tickeling on his chest
- c. tickeling on his cheeks

Question 15

What can you do, when your dog is eating?

- a. lie down next to bowl and watch him eat
- b. leave the dog in peace, he is eating
- c. take away the food bowl, in order for the dog to have something for later

Question

Question 16

Your dog is sleeping in his basket. Can you disturb him?

- a. of course, I am going to lie down in the basket with him
- b. rather not, although not all dogs mind
- c. no, every dog needs his own resting place

Question 17

What must I do, if I don't know how to interact with the dog?

- a. just do what I think is right
- b. leaving it to the dog, he knows best
- c. go to my parents and ask them what I must do

Question 18

What is a dog saying when he is wagging his tail?

- a. the dog is happy or irritated
- b. the dog is always cheerful and happy
- c. the dog is meaning absolutely nothing

Question 19

Why are the interaction rules with dogs so important?

- a. else the dog doesn't really know how to behave
- b. else people don't know how to handle a dog
- c. because people have to have rules for everything

Question 20

What is meant with the term castrating?

- a. to make female dogs infertile
- b. to make male dogs infertile
- c. to make female and male dogs infertile

Exam part 2 voor stray dog expert

Question 1

Does a chained dog have a nice life?

- a. yes, he is outdoors – dogs love that
- b. no, he can't do much and is extremely bored
- c. yes, he enjoys the full sun and the rain

Question 2

How many stray dogs are there in the?

- a. 100.000.000 (hundred million)
- b. 350.000.000 (350 million)
- c. 650.000.000 (650 million)

Question 3

How many pups does one female dog get in five years?

- a. 16
- b. 48
- c. 80

Question 4

Why is it so important to castrate dogs?

- a. to stop the animal suffering.
- b. because there are not enough people to take care of the dogs
- c. both answers a and b are right.

Question 5

Why is it actually that there are so many strays?

- a. because people don't look after dogs by spaying and neutering them
- b. dogs like each other a lot and make little pups
- c. because people like dogs a lot and breed them

Question 6

What happens to most stray dogs that don't have an owner?

- a. they die of hunger, thirst or disease
- b. they live happily ever after and have get very old
- c. they live shorter than pets, but are happy

Question 7

If you see a stray dog that is very hungry, what should you do?

- a. help it quickly by feeding it
- b. take the dog to the vet to have it castrated
- c. nothing, what can I do about it

Question 8

Which site has nice information about (stray) dogs and color-in pages ?

- a. www.stray-afp.nl
- b. www.stray-afp.eu
- c. www.stray-afp.org

Question 9

How do stray animals mostly get their food in the cities?

- a. by garbage and food that people leave on the
- b. by begging at restaurants for food
- c. they eat plants and flowers for food – there is nothing else

Question 10

What is the best way to reduce the number of stray animals?

- a. by locking them away safely in the foreign animal shelters
- b. by ensuring that less dogs are born
- c. by bringing as many as possible to the Netherlands en rehoming them

For after the exam

Finally, that was hard work!

Maybe you finished the exam quickly or in the mood for a puzzle or color-in picture. Go ahead!







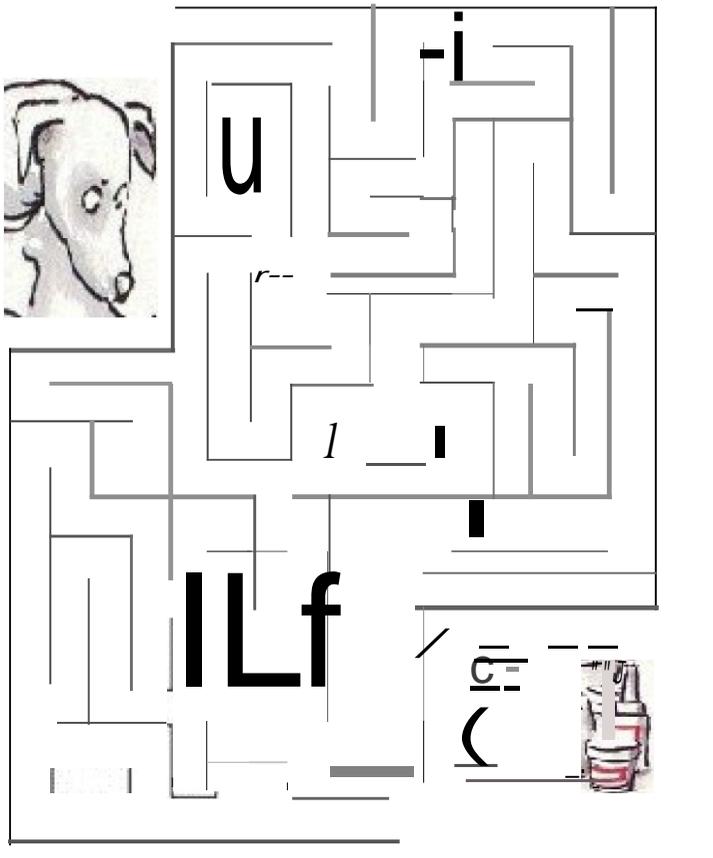
RaisingOurKids.com

Join the numbers from 1 tot 41 together and color in the picture.



This dog would really love to eat his food.

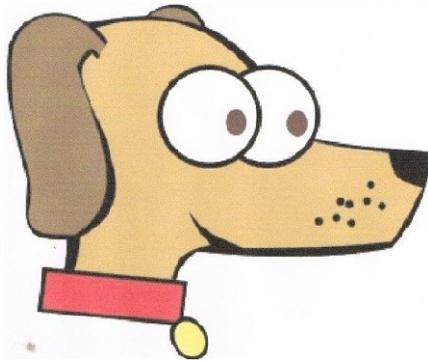
Will you help him through the maze, in order for him to enjoy his food?



Diploma dog- en stray dog expert



diploma



.....

Dog expert



chairman Animal Foundation Platform

date:



Answers to the exam of dog expert

(you may have a maximum of six mistakes)

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. C | 11. A | 16. C |
| 2. C | 7. B | 12. B | 17. C |
| 3. A | 8. B | 13. A | 18. A |
| 4. C | 9. A | 14. B | 19. B |
| 5. A | 10. B | 15. B | 20. C |

Answers to the exam of stray dog expert

(you may have a maximum of three mistakes)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A |
| 2. B | 7. B |
| 3. C | 8. B |
| 4. C | 9. A |
| 5. A | 10. B |





Animal Medical



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