

# Dogs



Dogs are mammals. They have long or short fur, ears, legs and a tail. They come in so many different colors, shapes, and sizes. There are about 340 breeds of dogs.



A barking dog

Scientists believe that dogs were first **domesticated** over 10,000 years ago. To **domesticate** means to tame. They were probably the first animal to be tamed by humans.

Since then, dogs have been used in a number of different ways. They have herded livestock. They have helped protect properties. Dogs have also helped do police work and rescue people in certain situations. Some dogs have guided people who cannot see. And they have also become our friends. Many people today have dogs as pets. They enjoy the **companionship** dogs give.

One of the main reasons why dogs have been so useful to humans is because they are able to **communicate** in different ways. Dogs can growl and bark loudly when they sense danger. They can wag their tails with excitement when they are happy. They can use their bodies and voices to **communicate** a message.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. When were dogs first domesticated, or tamed?

- A. 1,000 years ago
- B. over 10,000 years ago
- C. 100 years ago
- D. 10 years ago

2. What does the author list in the third paragraph?

- A. different ways dogs have been used
- B. different breeds of dogs
- C. different ways dogs can communicate
- D. different places dogs can be found

3. Read the following sentences.

"Dogs have also helped do police work and rescue people in certain situations. Some dogs have guided people who cannot see."

What can you conclude about dogs based on this information?

- A. They usually only help one kind of person.
- B. They can help people in different situations and with different jobs.
- C. They are more helpful to people who cannot hear than people who cannot see.
- D. They can communicate with police by barking when they are upset.

4. Based on the text, why is it helpful to humans that dogs can communicate?

- A. because dogs can warn humans when danger is near
- B. because dogs can teach humans about communicating well
- C. because dogs can help humans do first aid
- D. because dogs can remind humans of something they've forgotten

5. What is the main idea in "Dogs?"

- A. Dogs are hard to own as pets, but they can communicate with their tails and voices.
- B. There are over 340 breeds of dogs and they are all different sizes and colors.
- C. Since they were first tamed, dogs have been used to help humans in many different ways.
- D. The police have used dogs to help them do their work and rescue people.