



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB™

# Topic: Basic Care for Canines

**OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO PROPERLY CARE FOR THEIR DOGS.**

## Materials

### AKC® MATERIALS:

- *Best Friends Teaching Kit*
- *Bailey's Purebred Dogs Coloring Book*
- *Complete Dog Book for Kids*
- *AKC Guide to Purebred Dogs poster*
- *How to Be a Responsible Dog Owner bookmark*
- Brochures:
  - Keeping Your Dog Fit and Trim*
  - Canine Summer Safety Tips*
  - Winter Care for Canines*
- Reproducibles:
  - Bailey the Beagle's Responsible Dog Owner's Tip Sheet*
  - Bailey Goes Home*
  - Tips on Basic Care for Your Dog*
  - Watch Out for Winter Hazards Before You Buy a Dog*

### OTHER MATERIALS:

- *Crayons or markers*
- *Paper*

### SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

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1. Bring your dog to a spot in the room where every child can see it. Introduce it to the children. Explain a brief history of the breed.
2. Show the Best Friends DVD. Then ask the children if any of them has a pet. Ask one of the children to describe how he or she cares for the pet each day.
3. Show the children the different items needed for proper dog care (food and water dish, leash, collar, ID tag, bed, etc.) Name and describe each item, and tell the children what it is used for.
4. Demonstrate how to properly groom your dog. Explain the different needs of different types of coats. A double-coated dog needs special grooming tools, for example. Owners should expect to spend more time grooming an Afghan Hound than a Basset Hound, for example. Show the children pictures of the different breeds by referring to either *The Complete Dog Book for Kids* or the AKC's Guide to Purebred Dogs poster. Remind the children that parasite (flea) prevention is an important aspect of grooming.
5. Ask the children if your dog has thumbs. Since he does not, how can he brush his teeth or clip his nails? Demonstrate how to brush your dog's teeth, and clip his nails. Remind children that as the dog's owner, you are responsible for his care.
6. Describe the importance of basic obedience training. Just as people learn to say "please" and "thank you," dogs learn to sit, stay and come when called. Demonstrate the five basic commands, sit, stay, come, heel, and down, with your dog. If your dog knows any other special tricks, this is a good time to show them off.
7. Discuss the special hazards the summer months can bring for dogs. Explain the danger of leaving your dog in the car with the windows rolled up. And explain how dogs can get sunburned and are susceptible to heat exhaustion.
8. Care for a dog changes with the seasons. Explain how you adapt a daily care routine with the changing seasons. For example, you want to make sure your dog has a shady, cool place to relax if he is outside during the summer, and you want to make sure he has plenty of fresh water to drink all year.

### SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

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1. What steps can children take to ensure their pet has proper care?
2. What are the five basic obedience commands?
3. Why is basic obedience training important for every dog?
4. Why is it dangerous to leave your dog in a vehicle with the windows rolled up when it's warm outside?

# Topic: Basic Care for Canines continued

## **SUGGESTED ANSWERS:**

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1. It is important to take good care of the pets we bring into our homes to keep them healthy and happy. When you get a dog, you make a lifetime commitment to take good care of him. You can ensure your pet has proper care by reviewing basic care tips with your parents and your veterinarian. Dogs need daily exercise, regular grooming, nutritious food, health care, shelter and fresh water. Daily doses of love are important too! Every dog owner should have a leash, a collar with proper ID, food and water dishes and grooming materials.
2. The five basic obedience commands are: sit, stay, come, down and heel.
3. Every dog should know the basic obedience commands so they can behave properly and be under control in public places.
4. Cars can overheat quickly. If you leave your dog in a car during the summer with the windows rolled up, your dog could suffer heatstroke or even death. When you get into a car that has been sitting in the sun, it's always very warm inside. Sometimes it's too hot to sit on the seats comfortably. It's very important to never leave your dog, or any animal, in a car when the weather is warm.

## **HAVE EACH CHILD...**

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1. Draw pictures of the basic care items needed for canines.
2. Pretend they hired a pet sitter for the day. Write out step-by-step instructions for the sitter outlining the dog's care.
3. Complete the activities from the Best Friends Teaching Kit.

## **NOTES:**

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