



## English Comprehension – Dogs

Dogs were domesticated from wolves over 10,000 years ago in the Middle East as people started to realize dogs' great potential in guarding and hunting. This is evident from ancient cave paintings which often depict dogs assisting men during hunting. Today there are over 200 million dogs being kept as pets with North America having the largest share.

The dog is not a pure carnivore. It eats fruits, vegetables as well as meat and should be considered an omnivore. Its internal organs are similar to those of humans although externally both species look very different. The body of a dog basically provides strength and speed. The paws have pads which act as shock absorbers when they run or leap.

Dogs have excellent sense of smell because their noses have long smelling membranes. Their sense of hearing is also much better than human beings. They are able to swivel their ears so as to focus on the source of the sound. However, they do not see things in colour but in black, white and shades of grey.

The average life span of a dog is twelve years. The first year is equal to fifteen human years, the second is nine and thereafter, each dog year is four human years. This means dogs age much faster and live the equivalent of about sixty-four human years.

1. Why did Man domesticate dogs?

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2. Why is the dog not a pure carnivore?

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3. Dogs are often used by police to sniff for drugs. What makes dogs so special in this area?

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4. Would you describe a dog's vision as excellent? If not, why?

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5. When we say that 1 dog year is equal to several human years, what are we actually referring to?

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