

# WHAT I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T

Bet you think you already know an awful lot about caring for your dog. Our Human Mom sure thought she did when we agreed to move in with her. Perhaps, like her, you've lived with dogs your entire life. Maybe you've read a lot about us, or have spent a lot of time at your vet's (which could be a clue that you may still have more to learn).

To see if your knowledge is up-to-date, and not polluted by advertising "messages," I invite you to take my *Dog Quotient* test. Most people fail it miserably, but I'd like you to take it anyway. If you do well, you can lord your superiority over all your fellow homo sapiens, and your dog can relax in the knowledge that her Human is a genius. If, on the other paw, you have trouble with the test, maybe it'll tempt you to read—really read—the greatest book ever written by a dog! No guessing at the answers, please. If you don't know something for certain, the answer is wrong. Life and death stuff is best not faked.

## What's Your Dog Quotient?

- 1) A **titer** test shows if your dog:
  - a) Has kidney stones
  - b) Is immune to a virus
  - c) Will be able to properly her nurse puppies
  - d) Has elevated liver enzymes
  - e) Needs many, many more very, very expensive tests

## SCARED POOPLESS

2) You just received a notice that it's time for your dog's annual booster shots for parvovirus and distemper virus. You should:

- a) Go get the shots right away. Your dog's health is at stake
- b) Procrastinate until guilt overwhelms you
- c) Presume your dog's immune for life but test her just to make sure
- d) Vaccinate against distemper only; parvo is really just necessary for pups
- e) Vaccinate against parvovirus only; distemper is only a problem for pups

3) Which of these vaccines is **most** likely to produce an adverse reaction 10 to 45 days after the shot?

- a) Rabies
- b) Kennel cough
- c) Swine flu
- d) Parvovirus
- e) Leptospirosis

4) Which of these statements is **false**?

- a) Vaccinations can be dangerous for dogs with ear infections
- b) Vaccines protecting against multiple viruses at once are linked to immune system problems
- c) Dogs are safest if they receive yearly "booster" shots for the important viruses
- d) Chiclet is the cutest dog author on earth
- e) Dogs can delay getting rabies vaccination with a letter from their vet

- 5) Regarding kibble, which statement is **false**? Kibble is:
- a) Better for your dog's teeth than canned food
  - b) Must be no more than 50% meat because of how it's made
  - c) Can lead to dehydration
  - d) Contains more preservatives than canned food
  - e) Rhymes with dribble
- 6) You want something for your dog to chew on. Your safest choice could be:
- a) A raw chicken neck
  - b) The steak bone leftover from dinner
  - c) Dad's Gucci loafers
  - d) A rawhide chew
  - e) A large bovine leg bone
- 7) Which statement is **true**? Heartworms:
- a) Are easy to contract and are almost always deadly
  - b) Are difficult to contract but are almost always deadly
  - c) Are killed, not prevented, by heartworm medication
  - d) Are best prevented with a product that also protects against fleas and other worms
  - e) Party on Valentine's Day
- 8) The **most important** thing you can do to keep your dog's teeth and gums healthy is to:
- a) Feed hard biscuits
  - b) Use a special dental rinse
  - c) Offer nylon chews or pig's hooves
  - d) Brush your dog's teeth monthly
  - e) Teach your dog to floss between meals

## SCARED POOPLESS

- 9) Commercial dog food **may not** legally contain:
- a) Roadkill or zoo animals
  - b) Preservatives banned in Human food
  - c) Dying or diseased animals
  - d) All of the above are legal
  - e) None of the above is legal
- 10) Which of the following can be poisonous to your dog?
- a) Onions
  - b) Grapes and raisins
  - c) Acetaminophen pain relievers
  - d) All of the above can be poisonous
  - e) None of the above is poisonous
- 11) Regarding calcium, a ten-pound dog has:
- a) Half the requirements of the average Human female
  - b) The same requirements as the average Human female
  - c) Twice the requirements of the average Human female
  - d) A great need only during puppyhood
  - e) A definite preference for vanilla ice cream
- 12) If **optimum health** is the only consideration, a female dog should:
- a) Be spayed after her first “heat” or “season”
  - b) Be spayed before her first “heat” or “season”
  - c) Be spayed after her first litter
  - d) Have the less invasive procedure of tubal ligation
  - e) Keep her uterus intact and her knees together

13) Which statement is **false**? Male dogs that have been neutered:

- a) Are less likely to run away
- b) Are protected against testicular cancer
- c) Are protected against prostate cancer
- d) Can be fitted with prosthetics so they don't look strange
- e) Never forgive their Humans

14) The claim that a food is **complete and balanced** guarantees that:

- a) It contains all the nutrients dogs need in a form they can assimilate
- b) It has been tested on at least 30 dogs for at least one year
- c) Only that it meets certain theoretical standards
- d) Both a and b
- e) The food was made from animals who practiced yoga

15) Which statement is **true**?

- a) Because dogs pant as well as sweat, they're highly resistant to heat
- b) As long as a dog is panting, it's fine
- c) A dog may voluntarily exercise more than it should
- d) A flat-faced dog is more tolerant of heat than a long-nosed dog
- e) The best way to warm up a cold dog is with a hot dog—hold the mustard

## SCARED POOPLESS

### Answers

**1) b...**A titer test assesses antibodies to a virus. Aside from you, it's your dog's best friend.

**2) c...**Your dog may already be immune for life from distemper and parvovirus. A titer test can prove immunity.

**3) d...**Though any vaccine can cause a long- or short-term reaction, vaccines containing modified-live viruses, like the parvovirus vaccine, are more likely to cause reactions 10-45 days after the shot. Viruses containing killed viruses or bacteria are more likely to cause reactions within a few days.

**4) c...**Vaccinating a dog even ten times for one disease does not guarantee protection from that disease.

**5) a...**It's unlikely kibble will improve dental health. A more healthful diet will.

**6) a...**Fresh raw (not cooked!) chicken necks provide a healthy dog with calcium, meat and a good chewing experience. The other listed items may break teeth, cause intestinal blockage or contain harmful chemicals.

**7) c...**Heartworm medication kills immature heartworms already in the bloodstream.

**8) b...**A 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate rinse or gel can help your dog fight gum disease. Hard chews can break teeth.

**9) d...**All these ingredients, and more you won't like either, are within Association of American Feed Control Officials' guidelines.

**10) d...**All of these items are potentially toxic to dogs.

**11) b...**Dogs have a huge need for calcium, the same as an adult Human female. Getting your dog sufficient calcium can be problematic.

**12) b...**If you spay a dog before her first "heat," you reduce her risk of breast cancer to almost nothing. Mammary tumors are relatively common and often malignant.

**13) c...**Neutering a male dog will not keep him from getting prostate cancer; he should be checked at least annually.

**14) c...** To be designated “complete and balanced,” a dog food needs only meet certain theoretical standards. It need not be tested on dogs.

**15) c...** Dogs are *not* self-limiting in their exercise and must work up to hard exercise gradually. During hot weather especially, watch for signs of heat exhaustion (like panting that won't stop).

### Results

- **15 correct:** Congratulations. You're an Honorary Dog.
- **11 to 14:** You cheated. Clearly, your dog helped.
- **7 to 10:** You're way smarter than the average Human.  
What species are you?
- **4 to 6:** Do not handle sharp objects or dogs.
- **3 or less:** Quick! Give your dog CPR.

So are you puffed up with pride? Or wallowing in the depths of despair? If you're gloating, good work! You're one in a million! But also know that many of the top vets in the country helped us write this book. Surely they can teach you a few things you don't already know, something that may someday save your dog's life. Or maybe *you* can teach *us* something. Go to [www.dogs4dogs.com](http://www.dogs4dogs.com) and send us an e-mail. Give us a gem of wisdom and we'll post it on-line and make you famous. Well, semi-famous. Okay, not totally obscure if you tell your mother you posted it there.

If you're despairing, stop it. Consider this quiz a reality check. If Jiggy hadn't gotten sick, and Mom and I hadn't spent over 2,000 hours doing research and interviewing everyone we could think of, we wouldn't have known the answers either.

A bigger concern is *why* you don't know the answers to these very important questions. I'd guess it's because you learned most of your health and safety knowledge from people trying to sell you something. Think about it. Mom was initially “educated” this way, too. It has something to do with washing brains.