

SOUTH AFRICAN PONY CLUB



Working Dogs Achievement Badge Workbook



Objectives:

To be able to identify any 12 breeds of working dog
and describe in which sphere they are traditionally used.

Know the difference between *real working dogs* and companion dogs.

See working dogs in action: Visit a sheep farm, police canine academy etc.

Ask the local Animal Behaviourist if the Branch may observe a training session.

Look up Dr Sophia Yin's website on animal behaviour. Download free informative posters
and animal training videos: drsophiayin.com

NAME _____

BRANCH _____

Introduction to Working Dogs

Dogs and man have been working together for thousands of years. Working dogs are used on their own or as part of a team to regularly perform tasks for their handlers. All of these dog groups have inbred individual characteristics and behaviour that make them useful for specific functional roles. Some breeds have changed job descriptions over the years, while others are versatile and excels at a variety of tasks. Whatever the job, dogs are often recognised for their loyalty.

If you are considering any of these breeds as a pet you must make sure that they get plenty of exercise and training otherwise you may find them restless and difficult to live with.

Working Groups:

Shepherding, Terriers, Gundogs, Assistance Dogs, Service Dogs and Pack Hounds



Collie

Shepherding breeds

These dogs help the farmer to round up animals and are particularly used to control sheep and cattle. Generally,

herding dogs are bright, make excellent companions and respond well to training.

Breeds used include: **Collie, Old English sheepdog and Border collie.**

All herding behaviour is modified predatory behaviour. Through selective breeding, humans have been able to minimize the dog's natural inclination to treat livestock as prey while simultaneously maintaining hunting skills, thereby creating an effective herding dog.



Border Collie



Old English Sheepdog



Airedale

Terriers

There are at least 26 different breeds of terrier. Terriers are notorious for being lively and feisty dogs whose ancestors were bred to kill pests (rodents, mice, rabbit) by digging into the earth ('terrier' from *terra* meaning earth). They range in size from the smaller **Jack Russell** and **Fox Terrier** to the large and sturdy



Jack Russell

Airedale.

Gundogs

Gundogs tend to be natural athletes. They are active, alert dogs that are well known for their instincts around water and woods and require regular, stimulating exercise. They were bred to help their owner on a 'shoot'. Some breeds find the game (pheasant, rabbits, ducks, etc.), 'set' (freeze on the spot) and point to it, other breeds flush out the game to make it run or fly towards the guns.



Pointer

Others retrieve the game once it has been shot.

Examples:

- Point – **Pointers, Setters**
- Flush – **Springer spaniels, Cocker Spaniels**

- Retrieve – **Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers**

Hunting instincts develop early. Pointer puppies will start to display pointing behaviour as young as 8 weeks old.



English Setter



Labrador Retriever



Springer Spaniel

Assistance dogs

These dogs are trained to assist their disabled owner in their daily life. Many are trained by a specific organisation. Some of these dogs perform more than a 100 different tasks a day.

Examples are:

- guide dogs,
- hearing dogs,
- mobility dogs and
- medical alert dogs (i.e. seizure or psychiatric).

Breeds used include:

Labrador retriever, Golden retriever, Labradoodle (Labrador/Poodle cross), German shepherd and Greyhound.

Labradors can learn up to 200 different commands and are known to 'self-train' by observing human behaviour (for instance, rescues) and repeating it.



Golden retriever



Labrador surrounded by Labradoodles



Greyhound



German Shepherd doing laundry



Doberman

Service dogs

These dogs help the handler to protect an area, catch criminals, locate lost people/animals and sniff out drugs, cash, explosives or guns. Some like the Siberian husky work in teams pulling sleds in -50 degree weather.

Breeds include: Belgian and German shepherd dogs, Springer and Cocker spaniel, Doberman, Hungarian Komondor, Siberian husky, Rottweiler and Bloodhound

Many true working breeds are still very valuable to their local economies, which would suffer great loss from wolves and feral cats without their help. One such breed is the Hungarian Komondor. These dogs have been guarding (not herding) their flocks for around 8000 years. The Komondor guards sheep, goats or alpaca herds by blending in and living with the herd. Even at night, with no assistance or commands from his master, whatever the weather.



Husky



Komondor

Bloodhounds (while also a pack hound) are bred all over the world today for tracking lost humans (escaped convicts, lost children) and animals (lost pets) and can pick up the scent after several days.

Pack hounds

Most hounds share a common trait: they were designed to be used for hunting. The pack of dogs is trained to follow a scent. These packs were used to hunt animals such as foxes, deer and rabbit but are now used for countryside sport.

Breeds include: Fox hound, Bloodhound, Basset hound, Beagle, Greyhound and Rhodesian ridgeback

Basset puppy



Typically, Hounds either use their acute power of scent to track their prey or their stamina to chase them down.



Beagle



Bloodhounds

Some of the breeds that changed/added tasks to their job descriptions over time:

NAME of BREED	Modern Day Use	History
German Shepherd	Assisting professionals with: Arson investigation Drug detection at airports Guarding/Patrol/War Search/Rescue (911) Livestock Tracking Assistance dog: Various disabilities Sport: Competition Obedience Dog	Sheep herding and guarding
Labrador Retrievers & Golden Retrievers	Assistance dog: Various disabilities Therapy Dogs (Paws for People) Sport: Competition Obedience Dog Gundogs	Gundog (retrieval of prey)
Greyhound	Racing animal (not allowed in RSA) Assistance Dog (retrained as they come off the track)- have no 'doggy smell'	Sight hound (chasing prey)
Rottweiler	Guarding/human protection	Herding dog (Germany)
St. Bernard	Dog Sports: Show ring Obedience Trials Drafting (Cart pulling)	Guarding and rescue dog in Swiss Alps

Dog Sports

Dog training has over the years, also developed into more than 50 different sports. It is a great way to keep working breeds exercised and mentally stimulated.



Conformation

dogs and their handlers compete in the show ring for the best conformation and temperament of the individual breed.

Fly ball

the sport of flyball is a type of relay race that involves teams of four dogs. One dog from each team runs down a course, jumping hurdles, towards the "flyball box." The dog steps on a panel and triggers the box to release a tennis ball. The dog then brings the ball back over the hurdles to its handler. Dogs compete against the clock.



Agility

the dog negotiates a course of jumps and obstacles against the clock. This is done off-leash with no collar. Teamwork between dog and human is the cornerstone of this sport.

Obedience Training and Competition work

Dogs compete in the show ring at various different levels.

Dog Jumping (distance or high jumping)

Competing dogs' classes are divided by size and level.

Carting

dog carriage driving, with the dog in a collar and on a leash for the lower classes.

Freestyle

using heelwork exercises, dogs are taught choreographed steps to music.

Disc dog is the more generic name for what is commonly called *Frisbee dog*. In disc dog competitions, dogs and their human flying disc throwers compete in events such as distance catching and somewhat choreographed freestyle catching. The sport celebrates the bond between handler and dog, by allowing them to work together.



A very important part of training any dog, for any task or sport, is to understand how to interpret what they are feeling and why they respond the way they do.

Body Language

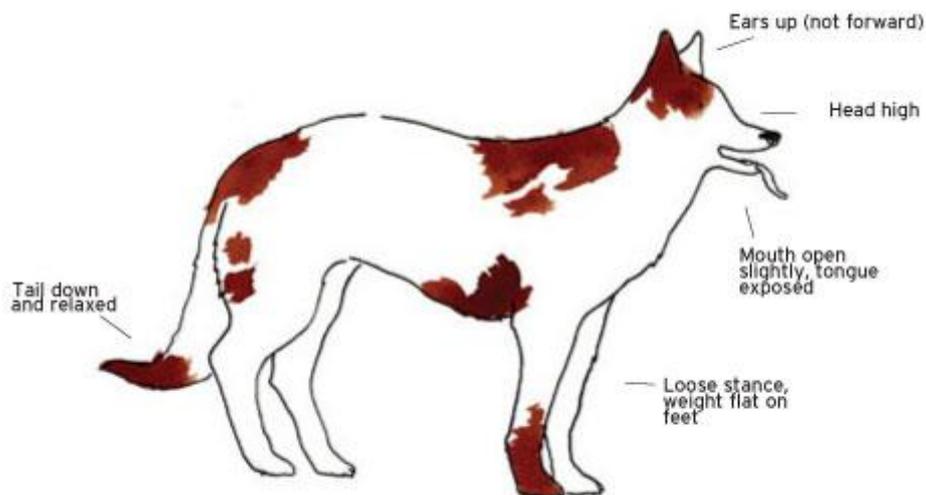
What is your dog trying to tell you? Dogs have a language that allows them to communicate their emotional state and their intentions to others around them. Although dogs do use sounds and signals, much of the information that they send is through their body language, specifically their facial expressions and body postures.

Understanding what your dog is saying can give you a lot of useful information, such as when your dog is spooked and nervous about what is going on, or when your dog is edgy and might be ready to snap at someone. You do have to look at the dog's face and his whole body.

The eight most important messages your dog is sending to you:

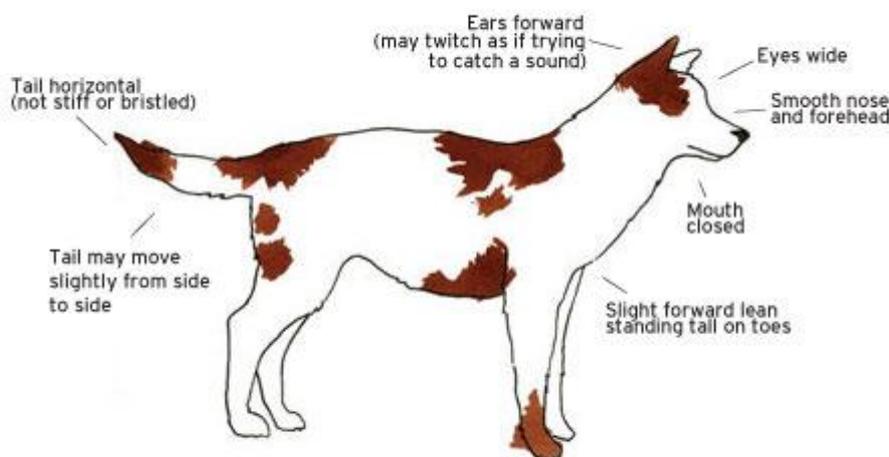
1. Relaxed and Approachable

This dog is relaxed and reasonably content. Such a dog is unconcerned and unthreatened by any activities going on in his immediate environment and is usually approachable.



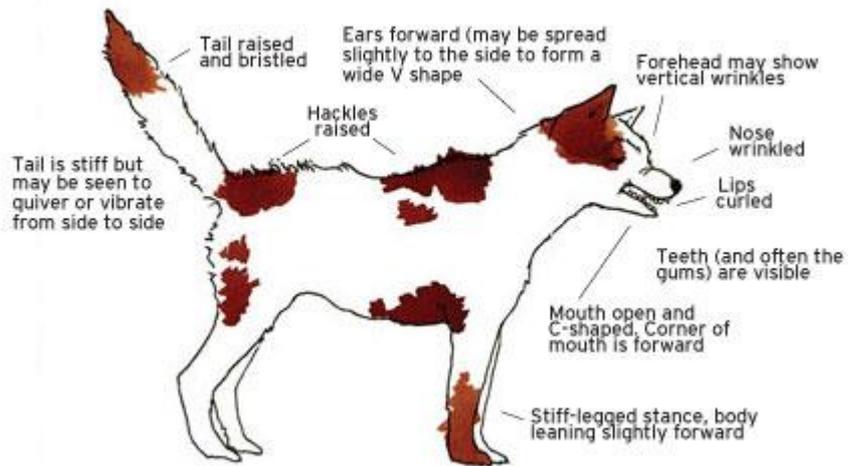
2. Alert- Checking Things Out

If the dog has detected something of interest, or something unknown, these signals communicate that he is now alert and paying attention while he is assessing the situation to determine if there is any threat or if any action should be taken.



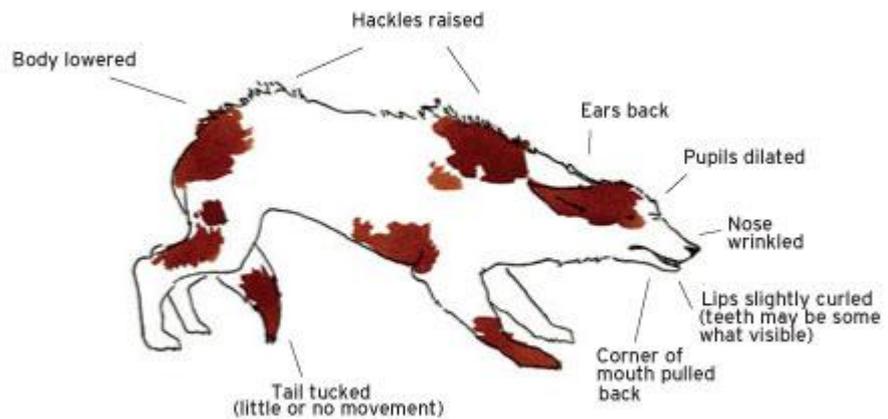
3. Dominant Aggressive

This is a very dominant and confident animal. Here he is not only expressing his social dominance, but is also threatening that he will act aggressively if he is challenged.



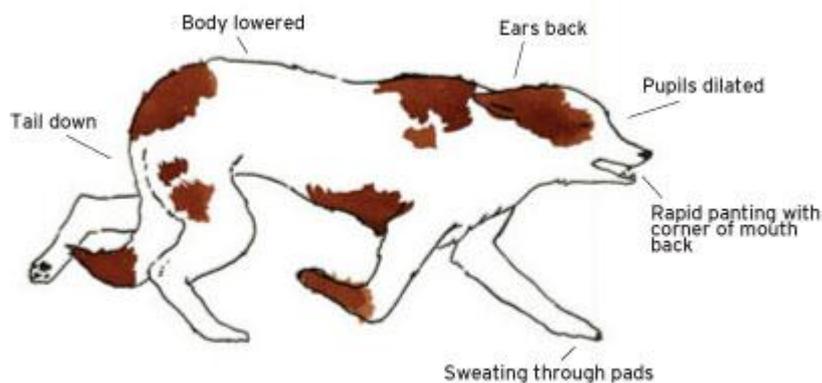
4. Fearful and Aggressive

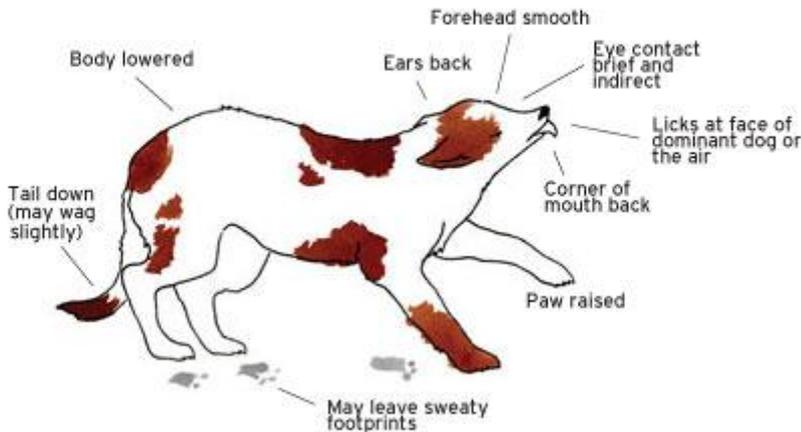
This dog is frightened but is not submissive and may attack if pressed. A dog will generally give these signals when he is directly facing the individual who is threatening him.



5. Stressed and Distressed

This dog is under either social or environmental stress. These signals, however, are a general "broadcast" of his state of mind and are not being specifically addressed to any other individual.



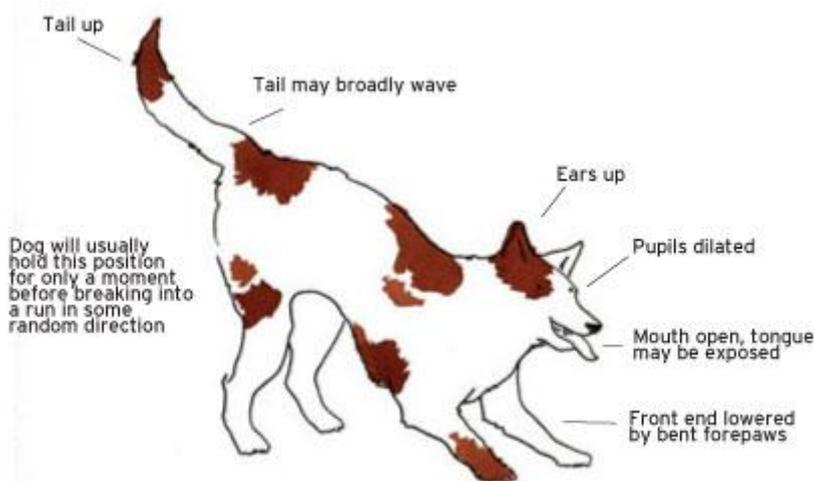
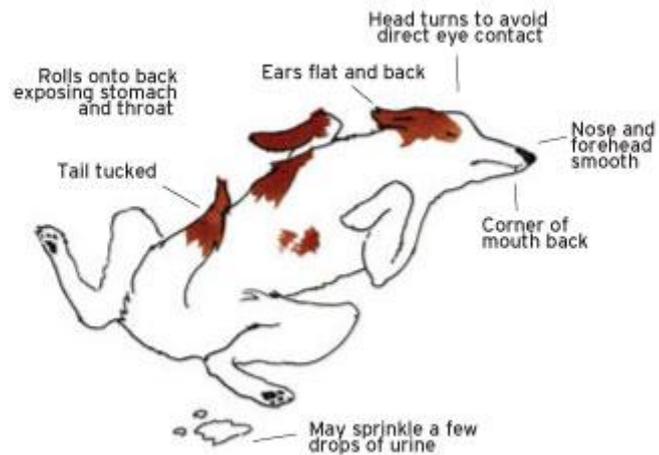


6. Fearful and Worried

This dog is somewhat fearful and is offering signs of submission. These signals are designed to pacify the individual who is of higher social status or whom the dog sees as potentially threatening, in order to avoid any further challenges and prevent conflict.

7. Extreme Fear- Total Submission

This dog is indicating total surrender and submission. He is trying to say that he accepts his lower status by grovelling before a higher ranking or threatening individual in the hopes of avoiding a physical confrontation.

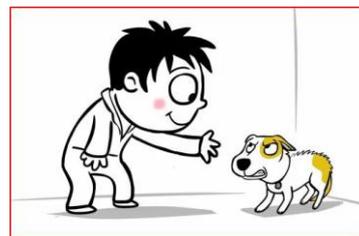


8. Playfulness

Here we have the basic invitation to play. It may be accompanied by excited barking or playful attacks and retreats. This set of signals may be used as a sort of "punctuation mark" to indicate that any previous rough behaviour was not meant as a threat or challenge.

Appropriate and inappropriate behaviour around dogs

By Dr Sophia Yin



How to greet dogs properly

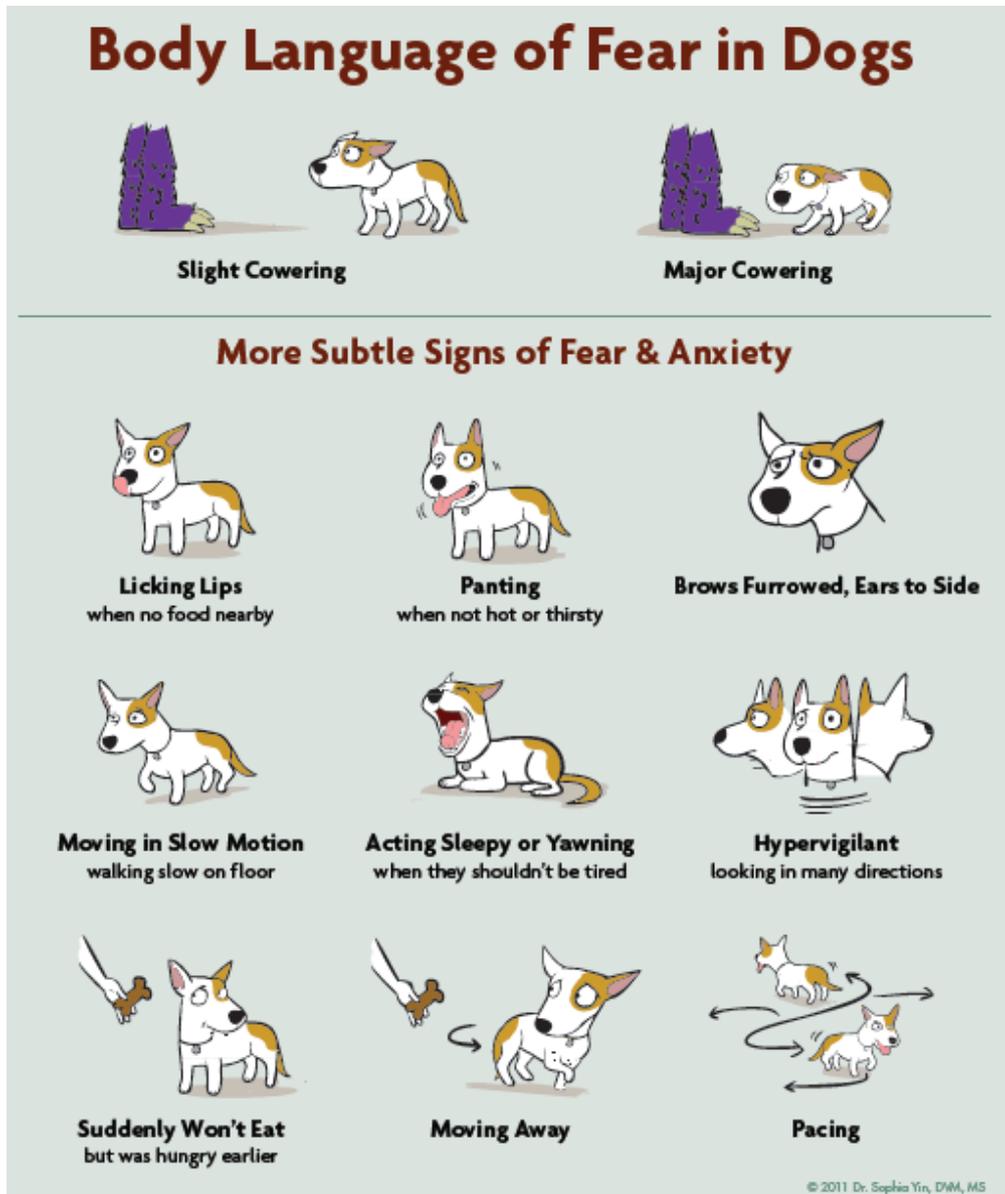
Dogs are a bit like humans in that the same types of inappropriate greetings that would cause a human to be afraid or irritated would cause a dog to become fearful and even aggressive too. Here are some examples:

 <p>Avoid touching inappropriately</p>	 <p>This is too familiar and often disliked by dogs.</p>	 <p>Pet gently</p>
 <p>Avoid rushing up</p>	 <p>Avoid rushing up</p>	 <p>Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk)</p>
 <p>Ask if you can interact first</p>	 <p>Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.</p>	 <p>Person correctly asking the owner first</p>
 <p>Avoid staring at people. This is scary.</p>	 <p>Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.</p>	 <p>Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision</p>
 <p>Avoid reaching into personal space</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff</p>	 <p>Let the dog approach at his own rate</p>

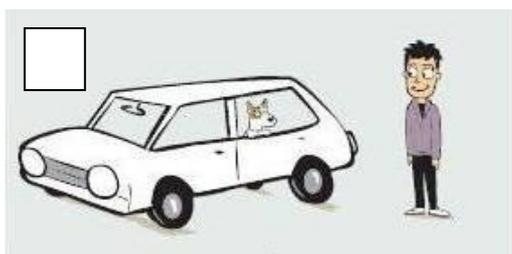
Remember that most dogs dislike being hugged even if they allow it. Imagine how a dog who dislikes hugging might react if they are hugged by someone with whom they're only mildly familiar. When interacting with a dog, especially an unfamiliar one, avoid hugging, patting or petting in an overly familiar way. Instead pet in a calm, gentle, relaxed manner.

Learn to interpret body language correctly

Dogs can bite for many reasons, so it's important to know how to read their body language and act appropriately in order to avoid getting hurt. Take a look at the poster.



Which one of these pictures shows inappropriate behaviour towards an unfamiliar dog?



Working Dogs Revision:

Name two breeds of dog that were bred to herd sheep, and are still used today for this task?

a. _____ b. _____

Name two breeds that are very versatile and used for a variety of different tasks throughout the world? Can you name some of the tasks that they perform?

a. _____

b. _____

Name a breed of dog that was bred to withstand very cold temperatures for long periods of time.

a. _____

What do we call the group of dogs that were bred to keep the rodent population down?

a. _____ From which word did this classification originate: _____

Name three dog sports: a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

Name 3 breeds of gundog and state whether they point, flush or retrieve.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Pack hounds work in groups to hunt down their prey. Can you name two breeds?

a. _____ b. _____

How many breeds can you name that are bred to be guards? What do they protect?

Complete the saying: "Dog is a man's....."

Can you describe how a dog would use his body to show aggression?

