

30 FACTS ABOUT DOGS

Dogs and humans

- 1 A dog's nose is like a human fingerprint, in that it can be used to identify them.
- 2 The maximum sentence in South Carolina, USA for beating your dog is longer than the sentence for beating your wife!
- 3 Dogs only have 1,700 tastebuds compared to humans who have 9,000.
- 4 Paul McCartney added in an extra high-pitched whistle in the song 'A Day in the Life' for his Shetland sheepdog.
- 5 Lord Byron was so outraged that Cambridge Trinity College wouldn't let him bring his dog so he brought a bear instead.

History

- 12 Spiked dog collars originate from Ancient Greece where they were designed to protect their dog's throats from wolf attacks.
- 13 Dogs curl up when they're sleeping because of an old-age instinct, so that they can protect their vital organs when asleep.
- 14 The earliest fossils of dogs date back to 10,000 B.C.
- 15 All dog breeds are descended from a species called the Tomarctus, a hyena-like creature that lived over 15 million years ago.
- 16 The famous mythical guardian of the Underworld in Greek mythology was the three-headed dog Cerberus.

Different breeds

- 21 There are two dogs who have black tongues: The Chow Chow and the Shar Pei.
- 22 Greyhounds can run up to 45 miles per hour, making them the fastest dogs on the earth.
- 23 The Newfoundland dog breed was originally bred to help fishermen, and so have a water resistant coat and webbed feet.
- 24 The Norwegian Lundehund is the only dog breed to have six toes on each foot.
- 25 Bloodhounds have the ability to trace scents that are over 300 hours old.
- 26 The Basenji, an African wolf dog, is the only breed of dog that cannot bark.



Characteristics

- 6 The only sweat glands that dogs have are between their paw pads.
- 7 A dog's sense of smell is more than 100,000 times stronger than a human's.
- 8 Dogs can see in the dark due to a special membrane in their eyes called the tapetum lucidum.
- 9 Dogs have wet noses because they lick their noses and absorb scent chemicals, so that they can smell better.
- 10 It has been proven that dogs can actually 'smell' some types of cancer.
- 11 Dogs release oxytocin (the love hormone) in their brains when they interact with dogs and humans.

Statistics

- 17 It is estimated that in the US, 1 million dogs have been named as the primary beneficiaries of their owners' will.
- 18 The oldest dog to date lived to be 29 years and 5 months old.
- 19 In America, more than 1 in 3 families have a dog.
- 20 In 2002 more people were killed by dogs than sharks in the US.

Cases of real-life dogs

- 27 With help from the ASPCA, some of Michael Vick's fighting dogs have now become certified therapy dogs.
- 28 There's a Border Collie called Chaser who can recognise 1,022 words.
- 29 The first big Hollywood dogs star was Rin Tin Tin, after he was rescued during the First World War.
- 30 Fido, Abraham Lincoln's dog, was also assassinated.

Sources:

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/dog-facts-10-amazing-things-3908754>
https://www.mspca.org/pet_resources/interesting-facts-about-dogs,
<http://barkpost.com/fascinating-facts-about-dogs>
<http://www.inspire52.com/11-bizarre-facts-dogs>
<https://www.petfinder.com/dogs/bringing-a-dog-home/facts-about-new-dog>
<http://www.cesar.com/live-the-life/just-for-fun/100-weird-facts-about-dogs.aspx>
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/kaelintully/o-yea-o-yea-o-yea-go-dogs-do-your-sweet-thaaang#.brglzDX8Q>

