

Making a Skillathon Kit

Note: These will also help with dog bowl as many of the topics are the same

Topics to Cover:

- Anatomy & Physiology
 - External Parts of the Dog
 - Skeleton of the Dog – Parts and Function
 - Internal Organs ID and Function (Dog Model)
- Selection
 - Breeds of Dogs (including group, origin, use, types/varieties, faults)
 - Conformation (Tails, Eyes, Ears, Feet, Pasterns, Stifles, Front & Rear Legs, Backlines)
- Health
 - External and Internal Parasite ID
 - Related Health Issues and Treatment
- Equipment ID and Grooming
 - Grooming Equipment ID and Use
 - Bathing
 - Agility equipment

Resources:

- While the kit available from OSU is very helpful, it is very expensive and you can find most of the resources for free with a little creativity!
 - On the internet (use a search engine, like google or yahoo to search for the topic; google also has an image search)
 - At the Extension office (National 4-H Curriculum or other resources);
 - At the library (most have a whole section on dogs);
 - Through an organization (like AKC); or
 - Through someone in your community (veterinarians, breeders, handlers, groomers, trainers, etc.)

The suggestions below are just a start – use your imagination and let you club members help!!

Anatomy & Physiology

- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/dog/>
- <http://www.4-hdogclub.cabanova.com/> (click on Dog Bowl)
- http://www.seefido.com/html/dog_s_skeleton.htm
- <http://darwin.nmsu.edu/~molbio/dog/Dogie11B.html>
- Veterinarians in your community
- Veterinary text books or other library books

Selection

Breeds of Dogs (including group, origin, use, types/varieties, faults)

- www.akc.org; they also have publications and are very willing to provide materials to 4-H Dog Clubs. You just have to ASK!!!!
- Breed Club websites
- Dog magazines, catalogs, etc. Have your kids cut out different breeds and put them on index cards with the breed name, origin, etc. on the back of the card – instant flash cards!
- Local kennel clubs
- Library books

Conformation

- Library

Health

- http://www.akc.org/public_education/fleas.cfm
- <http://www.seefido.com>
- http://www.marvistavet.com/html/the_pet_web_library.html
- Local veterinarian

Equipment ID and Grooming

- Local groomer
- Dog grooming suppliers online and catalogs
- Agility books from the library
- Agility equipment websites

Putting it All Together:

Once you find resources for a topic, print or copy the relevant text, pictures, diagrams, etc. and assemble it into a binder for each of your Club members. Your extension office can help you with copying. Things like dog breeds and grooming equipment can be put onto flash cards for easy studying.

You will also need a competition set with blanks where the dog part, equipment name, etc would be filled in by each competitor. Some of the resources above include blank and filled in diagrams. Otherwise, white out on a copy works just fine!

Making a Skillathon kit is a great winter activity for dog clubs to work on and it can continually be updated as new dog breeds are added or new resources become available. Once the kit is complete, practicing skillathon, studying dog related topics and having outside speakers come in allows you to continue your dog club through the winter months.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.
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