



Know the
basics in
90 minutes

Quicklook at **Dogs**



About Quicklook at Dogs

WE share a stronger bond with dogs than we do with any other animal. Why is this?

Quicklook at Dogs explores the extraordinary relationship we have with dogs. It explores their origins and development, which has been closely intertwined with Man for many thousands of years. Dogs can play a significant role in our lives. Some of them perform important tasks.

Why have different breeds developed? How has this been achieved? What are the pros and cons of the process? How is breeding regulated? What, exactly, is a pedigree dog? What are the main breeds and classes of dog? What should we look out for before getting a dog?

The book looks at the life of a dog, health issues and the place of dogs in the modern world. What laws apply? How is irresponsible breeding to be dealt with? What can be done about stray and abandoned animals? There are many charities working in this area: who are they and what do they do? Spend a day following a busy kennel maid.

Celebrate the lives of some famous dogs. Consider what the future may hold.



Quicklook at

Dogs

Mel Kavanagh



Quicklook
books

Published by Quicklook Books Limited

Weighbridge House, Grittleton SN14 6AP

First edition in e-book format 2010

This revised edition first published in hard copy 2012

Copyright Quicklook Books Limited (Company number 06641038) 2012

Cover photo from istockphoto.com. Photograph by PK Photos

Books in the Quicklook series are available in hard copy and as e-books from
www.quicklookbooks.com

Contact info@quicklookbooks.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form otherwise than as authorised by Quicklook Books Limited

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

Quicklook is a registered European trade mark (number 008147258)

ISBN 978-1-908926-08-1

Contents

One	History of the dog	7
Two	Anatomy	11
Three	A dog's life	15
Four	Behaviour	19
Five	Health	25
Six	Managing a dog	29
Seven	Why breeds exist	39
Eight	The regulation and practice of breeding	47
Nine	Major breeds	53
Ten	Getting a dog	57
Eleven	Working dogs	65
Twelve	Some famous dogs	69
Thirteen	Dogs and the law	71
Fourteen	Welfare	75
Fifteen	A day in the life of a kennel maid	79
Sixteen	The future	83
	Where to find out more	87
	About the author	89
	More titles in the Quicklook series	91

History of the dog



Development of the dog

THE dog is a canine, one of a group of animals that includes foxes, wolves and wild dogs. The domestic dog is believed to be a distant descendant of the Asian wolf. For some 15,000 years there has been an association with man and this time span has produced the domestic dog we know today. Present day wolves are the dog's nearest genetic relative.

A large group of physically strong animals, with the capacity to kill each other, required evolution to ensure that packs developed behaviour aimed at keeping the peace and allowing the pack members to interact and get along safely. This ability to interact, understand, acknowledge and act on a complex variety of signals has meant that the canine brain is well developed and receptive to many stimuli. While some experts feel the modern dog has little relationship with the behaviour patterns of wolves, underlying aptitudes persist. These allow new behaviours to be developed in the modern dog, suitable for living close to man.

Initially dogs probably simply hung round human habitation scrounging for scraps and presumably they were themselves sometimes killed and eaten by their human hosts. With man's movement away from a hunter gatherer life to crop cultivation and animal keeping, animals began to have a value beyond the immediate need to kill and eat them. Herds were kept and over time dogs began to be used to work flocks and to guard them. The sheep dog in ancient form was born. Its value grew as its ability to carry out its tasks was better appreciated. In the same way cats probably began to be seen as having inherent value as they kept rat and mice infestations down and so protected grain stores. Today the two most popular pets are still the dog and the cat. Their

long association with man is deeply rooted in human society.

Relationship with man

In our busy and increasingly technological world we are becoming ever more quickly detached from our origins. Modern living has moved us far from the lifestyle of even our grandparents. Nowadays children seem unaware where our food comes from. They may know that cows produce milk, but many children have never seen a cow. Many will be unaware that it must first have a calf. Meat comes from cattle, sheep, pigs and birds rather than being something that just appears, wrapped in cellophane, from the supermarket.

It would seem reasonable to assume that people now have less time for animals and one would expect pet numbers to be falling. Dogs, with their high demands for exercise and attention, would seem destined to be the ones to lose out. A recent (2006) estimate of the number of dogs in the UK put the figure at 10.5 million. This compares with a figure of 10.3 million cats. In 1989 the figure for dogs was 6.4 million. Most dogs are owned by families. Interestingly, households with gardens are more likely to have a dog and dog owners are less likely to be educated to degree level than cat owners. This may be because of the time commitments often associated with occupations requiring higher level qualifications. Cats do not have to be taken for walks and are widely considered less demanding pets.

Most people buy a dog for companionship or because they have wanted one since childhood. Only 5% consider security the main reason for purchase. A third of dogs come from rescue/rehoming centres and about a quarter from friends and acquaintances. Relatively few come from recognised breeders. The vast majority of dogs are described by their owners as pedigree. By this they mean their dog looks like one particular breed, but most will have no pedigree paperwork or be registered with their relevant breed societies.

Other interesting findings were that three quarters of households with dogs only have one dog. Less than twenty percent had two. In the same survey only seven per cent had one or more cats and one or more dogs. It is clear there are a lot of dogs in modern society and despite our increas-

ingly busy lifestyles their numbers appear to be growing. Dogs seem to be becoming increasingly important.

We can never know exactly how the close association between dog and man developed, we can only speculate. The dog is by nature a social animal, it wants to belong. Its nature is to live in a pack with a hierarchy of members. Man is also a social animal. Perhaps it was just that the dog, with the potential to be domesticated, and Man came to be in the same place at the same time. Of all the many species of animal only very few have been domesticated and of those few, the dog seems to be the most cherished. Only a few species of animal are kept as pets for their own sake. I would define pets as animals that seek out human attention and seem to get genuine pleasure from our company and contact.

Size and type

As human society evolved, the need to meet immediate food and shelter requirements receded and other human skills could develop. People could begin to specialise. Potters and weavers could concentrate on their skills and trade with others for food and water etc. This diversification in human skills began to be reflected in the various uses to which dogs were put. Big, strong, aggressive dogs were more suited to guarding flocks and better able to defend themselves. A small aggressive dog would be no use in chasing off a wolf or bear. Dogs with an excellent sense of smell were better at hunting.

The more affectionate puppy-like dogs were perhaps allowed to linger at home around the fire. They probably appealed to children, who simply liked to play with them. Since dogs do not have a particularly specialised diet, they could live on scraps and leftovers.

One can begin to appreciate how, over time, subtle changes could be made. It makes sense to breed good hunting dogs with other good hunting dogs. At a primitive level there was a degree of selective breeding, even if the owner was not consciously trying to achieve any outcome other than to breed another hunting dog.

We can leap forward in time to look at the modern dog, where the vast majority have no utilitarian role. Dogs nowadays are mainly kept as pets. There are over 200 breeds currently listed. They are all dogs, all

the same species and all, barring practical issues such as incompatibility in size, capable of breeding successfully with each other, yet their sheer physical diversity is staggering. We have all sizes and shapes from the tiny Chihuahua to the huge Great Dane. Clearly we have moved a long way from the original dog.



WARM blooded mammals, such as man and dog are broadly built to the same basic design; we all have hearts, brains, lungs, eyes, ears, four limbs and a head. While people look different from dogs, cats and rabbits we are all very much the same on the inside. Other than our brain power we, mankind, are essentially little different to these other animals. There are nonetheless notable differences. Dogs have all the same organs as us but none of them has an appendix. They have a fantastic sense of smell and possess many millions of times more odour detecting cells in their noses than we have. Dogs have limited colour vision. They can see blue, but green, red and yellow tend to look the same. Their hearing is better than ours. Obviously they have more hair.

While most people are more or less people sized and most domestic cats are more or less domestic cat sized, dogs come in a huge range of shapes and sizes.

Dogs stand and walk on their toes. Toe pads are tremendously well developed structures and while evolution has not accounted for broken glass, which cuts them readily enough, pads are surprisingly proof to thorns and general debris. The foot is the only part of the dog's skin to have sweat glands. Their hocks are the same anatomically as our ankles. If you stand on tip toes your leg is now the same shape as a dog's. Your knee will be the same as the dog's knee, or stifle, to be correct. The common names given to the joints differ but they are made up of the same bones. Indeed all mammals have the same basic bone structure and tend to have the same bones and joints. Proportions differ and also how we use them. While people walk on the flats of their feet and dogs walk on their four toes, horses' legs are adapted such that they are in effect stand-

About the author

MEL KAVANAGH is a highly qualified veterinary surgeon, with over 20 years experience.

He founded The Animal Doctor – a respected veterinary practice in Birmingham. Although it deals with all small animals, Mel's main area of expertise (and interest) is dogs and cats, and he has treated thousands over the decade that The Animal Doctor has been open. He holds several post graduate qualifications at Certificate level in veterinary medicine, notably in orthopaedics, surgery and anaesthesia.

Mel is married to Deborah, who has 25 years experience in caring for animals, including work at a rescue centre for dogs. They are themselves animal lovers and owners.

In his spare time Mel is a fitness fanatic and, over the last few years, he has completed both the Marathon des Sables in Morocco and the gruelling Ironman triathlon (consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride and a full London marathon).

More titles in the Quicklook series

You can find out more about our wide range of titles at quicklookbooks.com



Quicklook at Police

The British police have pioneered many aspects of policing. We explore how and why and how the service is shaping up to the 21st century. We find out about the many different skills and departments and how they fit together.

Quicklook at Pensions

This clear, layman friendly, book is a must read for anyone looking for a “spin free” guide to pensions.

Quicklook at Management

Every organisation needs to be managed. Part art, part science, part seat of the pants, there are many approaches. This up to date book covers the main ideas.

Quicklook at Education

This guide to the vital subject of education covers the system from pre-school to post graduate, exams and qualifications, the teaching professions and theories of learning.

Quicklook at Movies

This brings the world of film to life as we explore the characters that shaped and starred in it, the technology which developed it, the many different types of film and the booms and busts of an industry sometimes as dramatic as anything on screen.

Quicklook at Business

This is the most comprehensive short guide to the business world that you are likely to find.

Quicklook at Marketing

Marketing affects us all. It is crucial to business success. What is it and how does it work? Experienced marketing expert Patrick Forsyth unwraps its mysteries. You launch a new product.

Quicklook at Defence

Defence is vital and often in the news. How does it operate in a time of new challenges and tight budgets? Command a crisis operation.

Quicklook at Human Resources

This is a must for anyone interested in a job or the world of work.

Quicklook at Accountancy

All of the basics are covered, from the key elements of accounts and the ways in which they are used. Accountancy is the backbone of most organisations. It is itself a huge industry. We look at the main players, how it works and the many career options.

Quicklook at India

An emerging superpower, India embraces many different peoples, languages and religions. Nowhere has older or deeper cultures, or so much diversity.

Quicklook at Dogs

There are over seven million dog owners in the UK. Find out why we share such a strong bond with our canine companions.

Quicklook at Wine

Wine is a luxury enjoyed by many, but understood by few. This book gets you to grips with the subject, from grapes to glass.

Quicklook at Vets

Millions of us care for animals and vets are familiar and reassuring figures. Find out about the tremendous scope of their work.

Quicklook at Flying

How has flying developed? How does a plane work? What is happening in aviation now? What will happen in the future? What does it take to be a pilot?

Quicklook at Property

Property (real estate) is the ultimate base for wealth and the economy. It comes in many forms. Many jobs depend on it. Learn how the world of property operates.

Quicklook at Medicine

Medicine provides more and more remedies, often vital to life. What is becoming possible? How is it done? How does the body work? Find out about the medical professions. Be a GP for a day.

Quicklook at Law

English Law has spread its influence to many countries. Why? How does it work? How is it changing? How does the legal profession operate? Get inside a Court case.

Quicklook at **Dogs**

Why do we share a stronger bond with dogs than any other animal? *Quicklook at Dogs* explores our extraordinary relationship with them, from early Man to the present day. Dogs can play a significant role in our lives. Some are trained to perform important tasks.

We look at breeds, how they developed and some associated problems. The implications of having millions of dogs in our society are considered.

The life cycle of the dog and health issues are covered.

● Spend a day at the sharp end, following a busy kennel maid.

Quicklook publishes layman-friendly books which take you to the heart of a big subject in a clear, short guide. They are available from good bookshops and from **quicklookbooks.com**

About the author

Mel Kavanagh worked as a veterinary surgeon for over 20 years. His main area of interest and expertise is dogs and cats – he has treated many thousands.



Himself an animal lover and owner, Mel is married to Deborah, who has over 25 years' experience in caring for animals, including work at a rescue centre for dogs.

In his spare time Mel takes part in *Ironman* events.

RRP £7.99

