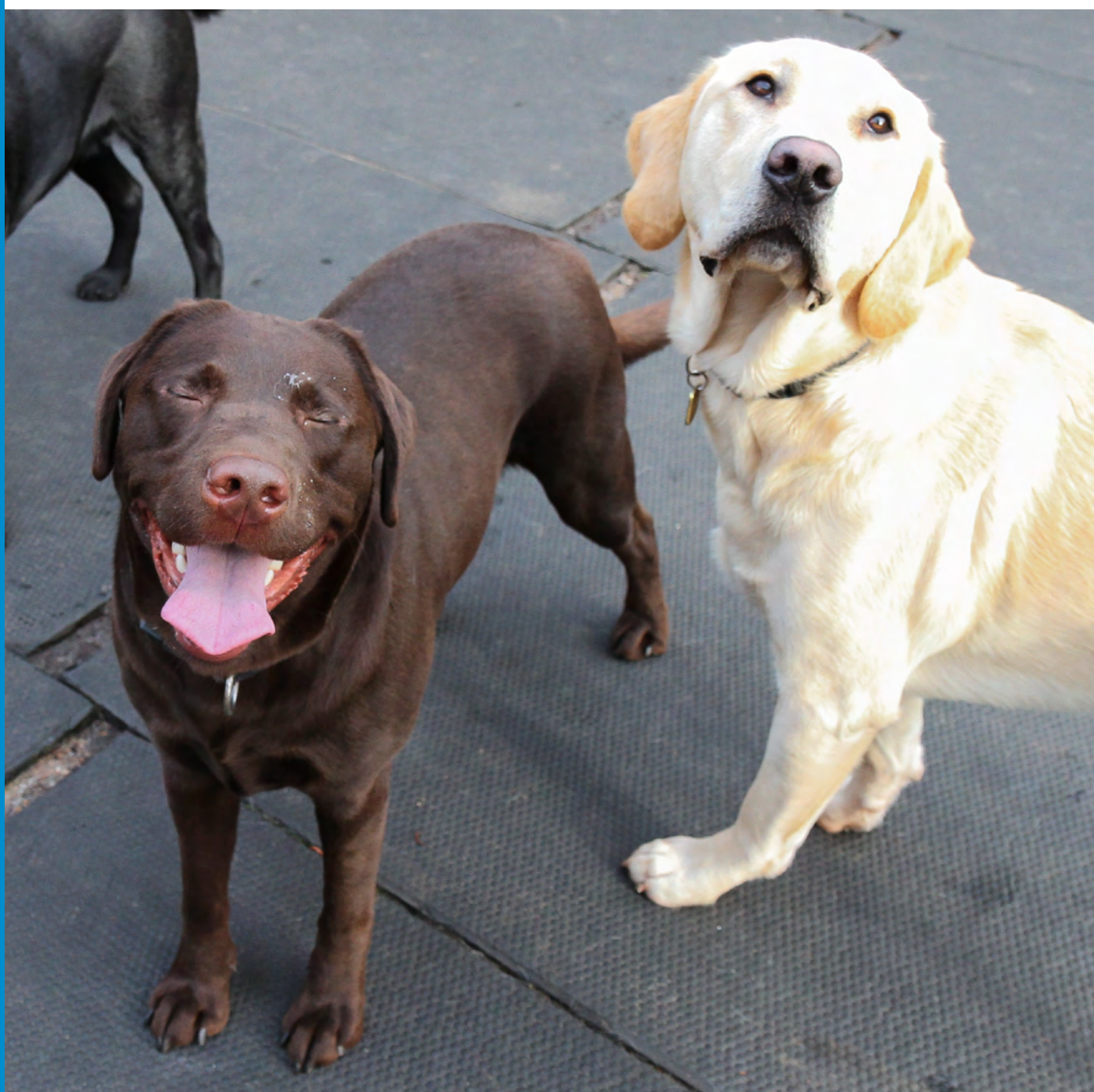


GUIDE
DOGS



Module 3

Spot the difference



Lesson plan

UK Curriculum links

English, The world around us, Literacy

Aim:

To understand the main differences between a pet dog and a working dog.

Objectives:

- To understand that a guide dog is a working dog.
- To understand that there are similarities as well as differences between a pet dog and a guide dog.

Learning Outcomes:

Most children will be able to recount a few things that are the same and different between a guide dog and a pet. Some will be able to explain concisely what to do when meeting a working guide dog. Others will find out further information and characteristics of different breeds of dogs and their suitability as a pet or guide dog.

Teacher/ Leader Notes:

There are various videos available on our You Tube Channel Guide Dogs UK.

Resources:

Resource Activity - Guide dog/pet dog

A copy of Our (guide dog) Breeds

Key Vocabulary:

Harness, responsible, working dog, breeds, heel

Introduction

Ask the children to raise their hand if they have a pet dog.

Ask these children:

- What sort of things do they like to do with their pet?
- What is their dog's favourite toy?
- What is their dog's favourite game?
- What does their dog like to eat?
- Has their dog had any formal training and been to puppy training classes?
- How does their dog behave? Is there anything they would like to change about the way their dog behaves?
- What does being a responsible dog owner mean?
- How does their dog respond to other animals including dogs?

Show the children the sheet showing the different guide dog breeds (Our Breeds). Ask children to raise their hands if their dog is one of these breeds.

You could also ask if any children know anybody in their family who has been involved in training a guide dog puppy. Indeed there might well be someone who knows someone who has a guide dog. If so, ask if they would like to share their experiences.

Resource Sheet Activity

Differences between pet dogs and working dogs

Remind the children of the key facts they found out in the previous lesson about how guide dogs are trained. Give out the resource sheets and explain that although some dogs look very much alike, are actually the same breed and enjoy similar activities, there are some quite specific differences which you are going to look for now. There are three headers in this activity. Read each statement and discuss before drawing a line to the correct picture.

Pet dog – Walks to heel, Sometimes chases squirrels and cats.

Guide dog – Can go into restaurants, Calm in any situation, Wears a harness and bib.

Both – Like going for a walk, Can go for a free run, Is faithful and loving.

Activity Idea 1

Labels

Prepare a simple leaflet that explains the differences between a pet dog and a guide dog. Children should use labels and short sentences to describe and explain the differences. In a box at the bottom of the leaflet they should describe the similarities e.g. They both like to...

Activity Idea 2

Research dog breeds

Split the class into groups and ask each group to find information about a certain breed of pet dog, include Labrador, Golden Retriever, and German Shepherd. Make sure each group looks at a different breed. They could use the internet or reference books to find out basic information e.g. size, colour, life span, things they like to do, any other characteristics or behaviours. Record the information neatly and if possible include a picture.

Activity Idea 3

Pet photo display

Ask children who have pet dogs to bring in a photo of their dog that could be used as part of a display. Children who haven't got a pet dog could choose a guide dog instead. They could either prepare a short talk about their dog or bring in relevant information including name, breed, colour and size. They should talk about things their pet likes to do, their favourite games and any special habits they have. Make a class display.

Activity Idea 4

Discussion

Hold a class discussion on what you should do if you see a person with a guide dog, answers could include:

- Always ask the owner before you touch any dog, a working or a pet dog.
- If you meet a person with a guide dog, speak to the person first.
- **Remember** - never distract, call out to, touch or feed a working guide dog - the dog needs to concentrate on guiding its owner.
- **Remember** - never give a guide dog a ball to play with as it can bring out their chase instinct.
- Keep your pet dog away from a guide dog when it is guiding its owner as it needs to concentrate and cannot play.

Plenary

Advice

Share the differences and similarities together. Then ask children to explain what to do if they should meet a working guide dog, how should they behave and what advice would they give to a member of their family.

Home Activity

Tips sheet

Explain that based on the information you have found out today you would like children to prepare a Tips sheet to explain to people what they should and shouldn't do if they meet a working dog when they are out and about. Ask them to keep the Tips sheet simple, using short sentences, bullet points and headers.

www.guidedogs.org.uk