



The AKC Patch Program

The AKC Virtual Patch Program is a fun interactive way to teach young people about purebred dogs and dog events through a digital experience.

Directions: While you are reading, use the 'highlight' tool to highlight words you don't understand. Use the vocabulary boxes on each page to help you figure out the meaning of tricky words.

AKC Breed Groups

The American Kennel Club places dog breeds into 7 different groups: Herding, Toy, Non-Sporting, Terrier, Working, Hound, Sporting. These groups represent the original work each breed was developed to do.

Discover More: See if you can name these different dog breeds. If you need help, click [here](#)





Conformation

Conformation is a dog sport where dogs are judged on how closely they look and act like their breed. Why? Because the closer a dog's appearance and personality is to others dogs just like them, the easier the dog will be able to complete the job it was bred to do.

Discover More: Take a look at this video on what [dog shows](#) are all about.

Try It: During conformation show, a dog and his or her owner take a lap around the ring to show off the dog's walk and run. Take a quick lap around your yard or room, just for fun. If you want to get silly, try running at different speeds, first slow then really fast!



To see a dog in action at a dog show, watch this short clip of a dog taking his turn showing off his gait! [Vizsla gait](#)



Conformation: a dog sport where dogs are judged on how closely they look and act like their breed

Gait: a particular way of walking



FastCAT

The CAT in FastCAT stands for Coursing Ability Test. It is a sport where a dog runs as fast as they can for 100-yards and the best time wins! Dogs of all sizes can participate!

Discover More: Check out this [FastCAT video](#) to see all kinds of dogs having fun racing after a lure.

Try It: How fast can you run? Get a partner to time you running the length of your backyard or sidewalk. Try it a second time to see if you can beat your first run!

Coursing: Coursing is the pursuit of game or other animals by dogs



Agility

Dogs who compete in agility train to run through an obstacle course with their owner while being timed. The fastest dog wins!

Discover More: Here's a fun [video of Chuckles and Samson](#) trying out Agility with homemade obstacles in their back yard.

Try It: You can set up your own Agility obstacle course in your back yard. Try jumping over a stick placed between the holes of a couple laundry baskets. Create your own "tire" jump using a hula hoop. [Click here](#) for more ideas on how to create an Agility course at home.



Dock Diving

Dock Diving is a fun sport where a dog jumps into a big pool. The dog who can jump the furthest is the winner!

Discover More: Watch a cool [video of Dock Diving](#).

Try It: How far can you jump? Have an adult help you place a measuring tape on the floor, then measure how far you can jump!

Congratulations you completed the AKC Virtual Patch Program, great job!

Ask an adult to fill out this [form](#) to receive your very own patch in the mail!