

# Paws2Rescue

Education Resource



Changing lives. Developing children's understanding and empathy with animals.

**Body Switch**



Paws2Rescue

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# Introduction

Welcome to Body Switch, one of a set of three resources which use a story and supporting activities to engage children aged between 6 and 12 years (approximately). Each story and activity can be adapted for use dependent on children's age and ability by the educator.

The resources aim to help develop children's understanding of animal welfare and develop their feelings of empathy, compassion, kindness, respect and understanding towards dogs.


Other resources available: Best Friends, A Dog Inspector Calls.

## Using the stories

You could use the stories for:

- whole-class storytime
- independent or group reading
- developing reading comprehension.

## Paws Points

Each story has several reflection points ('Paws Points') highlighted. These are marked with a  and can be used as a stopping point in the story to actively encourage children to think about what is happening and why. You can allow the discussion to develop naturally, or use the prompts provided with each story to get children talking about what is happening in the story.

## Using the activities

Each story has three supporting activities broadly created to suit different age ranges.

They are designed for use following each story to further develop and consolidate children's understanding of the key messages.

Some of the activities can be used on their own and just for fun too! You can find all the activity templates at the end of this resource.

# Body Switch

Petar ran out of his house angrily. All his parents ever said was 'do this' or 'do that' or 'clean your room'. Worst of all he had shouted at his mum, so he was definitely going to be grounded when he went home.

Instead of going back to be told off again, he decided to find something else to do. But he was soon bored. He didn't have any money, and his friends were all at home helping their parents. He sat grumpily on the pavement outside a shop and tossed stones against a nearby wall to pass the time.

'It isn't fair', he thought. 'I had tonnes of fun things I wanted to do today, and now I'm stuck here. It's all her fault.' He threw another stone, but it missed the wall and flew over the top instead.



Petar heard a terrified ‘yelp’! A black furry creature ran out from behind the wall and froze in front of him. Two terrified white eyes peered out of its matted fur. It was a street dog, and the poor thing looked in a terrible state. 🐾<sup>1</sup>

‘I envy you’, Petar whispered as he looked at the dog. ‘Free to do what you want, when you want. With no one to tell you what to do’.

The dog turned his head as if he was listening, which made Petar smile for the first time that day. He reached into his pocket and found a half-eaten biscuit. He held it out towards the dog.



The dog was scared but starving 🐾<sup>2</sup>, so it slowly crawled towards him. But the bang of the shop door sent him running back to the wall, cowering with fear. Petar threw the biscuit to him, and the dog gobbled it quickly before running behind the wall to hide. 🐾<sup>3</sup>

As Petar got up to leave, the dog peeked around the wall making eye contact with him. For a second, it seemed that the dog was trying to communicate with him. He laughed and shook his head at the silly idea. Then he headed home.

The next morning, Petar woke up feeling out of sorts. His body ached, he felt hungrier than he had ever felt before and he had an



itch just behind his ear too. He lifted his back leg and scratched the itchy spot, letting out a grumble as he did.

Petar froze.

What had just happened? He checked to see if he had imagined it, by lifting his leg and scratching the spot again. He jumped up onto all fours in surprise and looked around. Why had he been sleeping under a bush behind the shop?

He started to panic. He ran over to a puddle and looked down. Looking back at him was the street dog he had met yesterday,



but that wasn't all he had to worry about. His fur itched, and the more he scratched the sorer his skin felt, and he could feel things moving in his matted fur, tickling and irritating. 🐾<sup>4</sup>

Every time he placed his front left leg down, a sharp pain shot up his leg. He gnawed and licked at a cut on his padded paw, but it didn't ease the pain and swelling.

He could feel a collar around his neck. 'I must have had a family once', he thought. But it had been a long time ago, as the collar was too tight, digging into his skin and making it hard to breathe. 🐾<sup>5</sup>

But the worst thing he felt was hunger. He was surrounded by delicious smells from the nearby shops and cafes, that smelled stronger than ever before. He needed to eat; he was starving.



He thought he might find food in the shop, but when he went inside the people shouted at him. The shopkeeper hit him with a broom making him yelp with pain. 🐾<sup>6</sup> He was so terrified he ran out of the shop across the road, nearly getting hit by a car.

Petar wasn't sure how long he hid, terrified behind the bins, but there was only one place he wanted to go now. Home. 🐾<sup>7</sup>

He started to walk home, trying to avoid the scary people. He was still so hungry that he turned over some rubbish bins to see if there was anything he could eat. When he knocked over the first bin someone yelled and threw a bowl of dirty water over him.



But he was so hungry he had to try again. This time he found some pizza, so he ate it quickly in case someone else came along to scare him.

All the way home, it seemed that just the sight of him made many people angry. The worst thing though was the people who seemed not to see him at all. 🐾<sup>8</sup> Nobody cares, he thought sadly. Things would be better when he got home, he reassured himself; after all, they couldn't get any worse.



The familiar white walls of his home came into sight as he rounded the corner. He let out an excited bark and allowed himself a quick chase of his tail in celebration. When he saw his mother hanging out her washing he leapt into a run. If anyone could help him, it was her.

Petar didn't notice his mother frown. He didn't realise that she didn't see her son running towards her. She saw a dirty, unwashed, starving black dog half running, half limping with wide eyes.


'Get away, go away!' she shouted. She didn't sound mean, she just didn't want her freshly washed clothes getting muddy, and he was just another stray dog begging for food. 🐾<sup>9</sup>



Petar looked at his mother and whimpered. His heart was broken. I have no one? Who is going to care for me now? Nobody will want me. His mother paused for a second, giving Petar a glimmer of hope. But she shook her head and chased him away again.

Sadly, Petar found his way back to the bush where he had woken up that morning. Where else could I go? Who could I go to now? He still felt the deep hunger in his stomach. His paw still hurt, and he could feel the itch behind his ear again. All he wanted to do was curl up and go to sleep and pretend he was safe at home with his mother. 🐾<sup>10</sup>

When he woke up, the sun was blazing through a gap in the curtains. He had somehow become tangled up in his bed covers. He felt an itch behind his ear and lifted his hand to give it a scratch.

Petar lifted his hand in front of his face, turning it around and smiled. He threw off the bedclothes and, pulling on his clothes, he ran downstairs. He gave his startled mother a big hug, <sup>11</sup> grabbed some food from the fridge and flew out the door. He just had to check.















He found the shaggy black dog curled up under the bush behind the shop. It was still afraid, but when Petar pulled some meat out of his pocket and held it out the little dog's nose twitched. The dog came slowly towards him and cautiously took the meat. Petar reached out to gently stroke him. The dog was thin, but it was still a shock to feel his bones under his matted fur.

Petar knew he had to help. Sitting down next to the dog, he unbuckled its tight collar and started to think about how he could make life better for his new friend. 🐾<sup>12</sup>

## Body Switch Paws Points

These reflection points are highlighted throughout the story and can be used to actively encourage children to empathise with the dog in the story. You can choose to do a handful or all of the 'Paws Points' depending on your audience.

-  **1** Why did the dog yelp?
-  **2** Why is the dog starving?
-  **3** Why does the dog behave like this?
-  **4** Why does the dog feel like this?
-  **5** Why is his collar too tight? Imagine how this would feel.
-  **6** Why do the people behave like this?
-  **7** Why would Petar/the dog want to go home?
-  **8** How would this make you feel?
-  **9** How do you think the dog feels when he is chased away?
-  **10** If you were the dog, what would you do?
-  **11** Why do you think Petar gave his mother a big hug?
-  **12** How do you think the dog might be feeling at the end of the story?



## Activity 1 (5-7 years). How would you help?

Petar might have bought some more food, given the dog a bath, taken him to a shelter, the vet or even given him a forever home. Can you draw a picture of what you would do to help the dog?

Provide children with a copy of the template on page 20 to draw their picture.

## Activity 2 (7-11 years). Dogs have feelings too

Dogs have feelings just like humans. They can feel happy, excited, hopeful, sad, worried, scared and lonely just like you.

Explore dog feelings and emotions using the flashcards in Romanian and English on pages 21-27. Copy and cut out as many sets as you need.

Children can work alone or in groups to match the images and words.

### Activity 2.1 Wordsearch

Using the wordsearch on page 28 can children find the words to describe **how** and **what** the dog feels when it is living on the streets?

Ask the children to think about how these words might change when Petar 'rescues' the dog.

Can they think about how the dog might feel? What words would they use? They could even create their own wordsearch.

## Activity 3 (11+ years). Have you ever had a nightmare?

This activity could be done as a mind map/spidergram in pairs, small groups or as a whole class. Or you can ask children to write the words on pieces of paper that can be stuck/pinned to a board or wall.

**In pairs, ask children to discuss whether they have ever had a nightmare.**

- Ask them to write down the words to describe how the nightmare made them feel.
- Ask them if the nightmare made them feel frightened, and what they did to feel better.
- If yes, ask them to write down the words that described what they did to feel better.

**Now ask them to imagine they were the dog in the story.**

- Are there any words about how their nightmare made them feel that could be used how the dog in the story felt?
- Are there any words that described what they did to feel better, that would have also worked for the dog?

**If you haven't done so already - share the ideas with the whole class.**

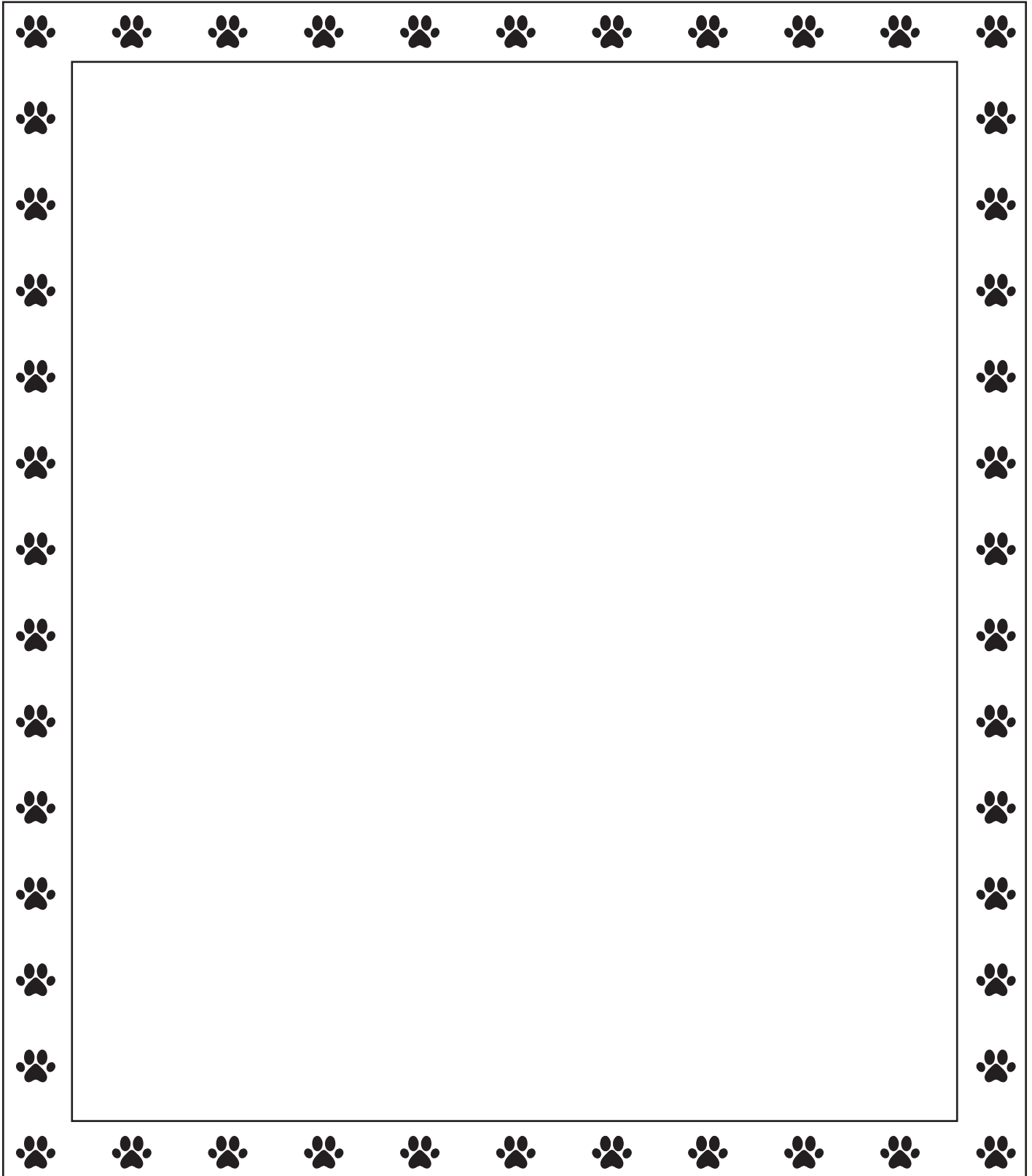
- Ask the children whether they knew that dogs could feel the same things they do.
- How does that make them feel?

**You can finish the activity on a positive note by asking each child to say ONE thing they could do to make a stray dog feel better.**

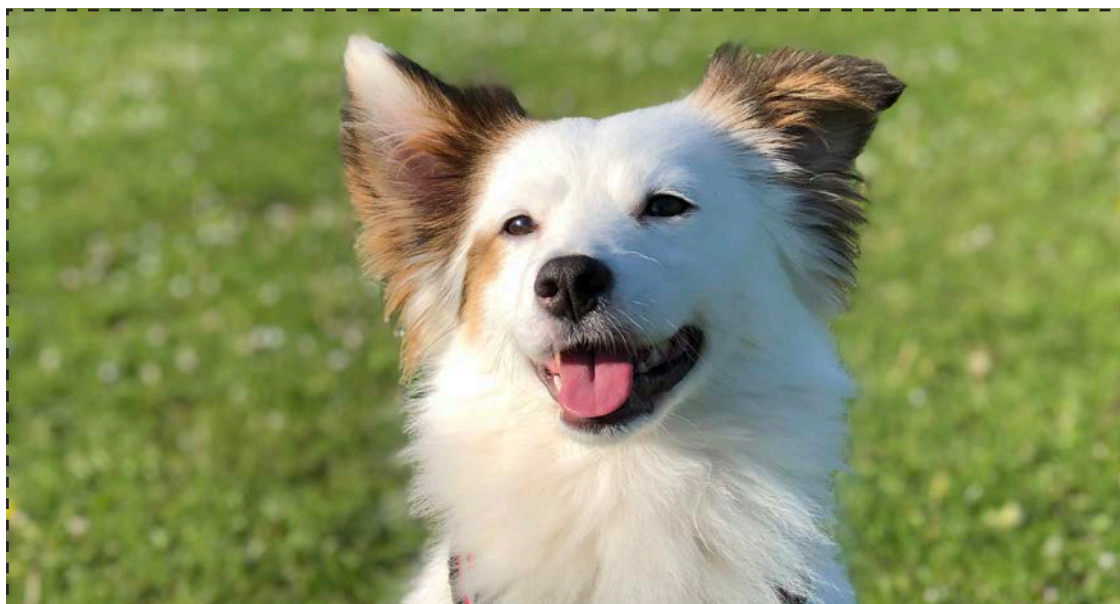
# Activity sheets and templates

# How would you help?

Petar might have bought some more food, given the dog a bath, taken him to a shelter, the vet or even given him a forever home. Can you draw a picture of what you would do to help the dog?



# Dogs have feelings too



Happy



Excited



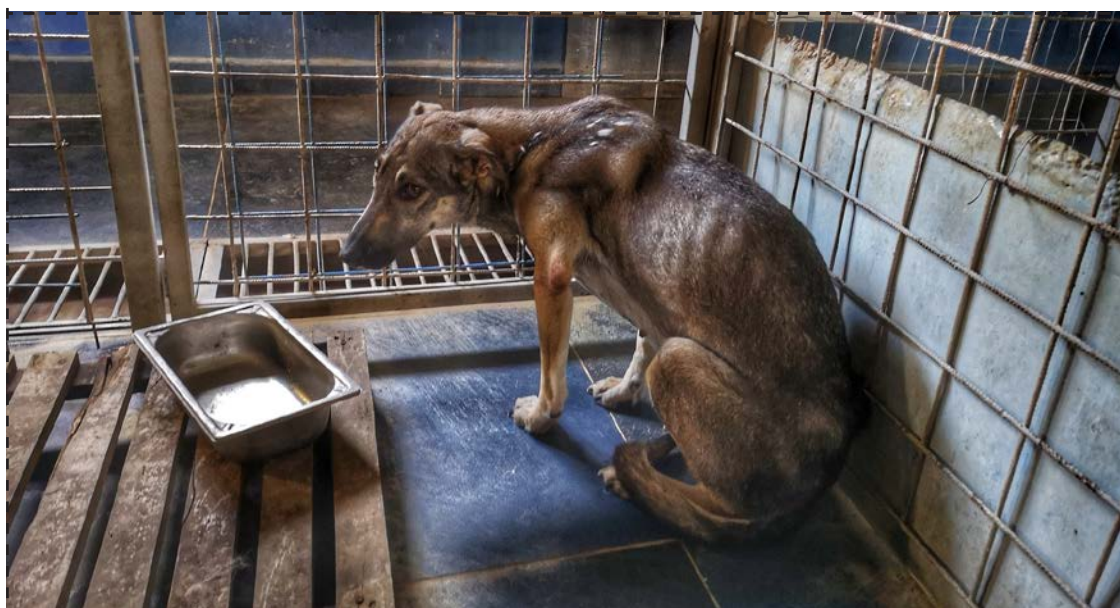
Sad



Hopeful



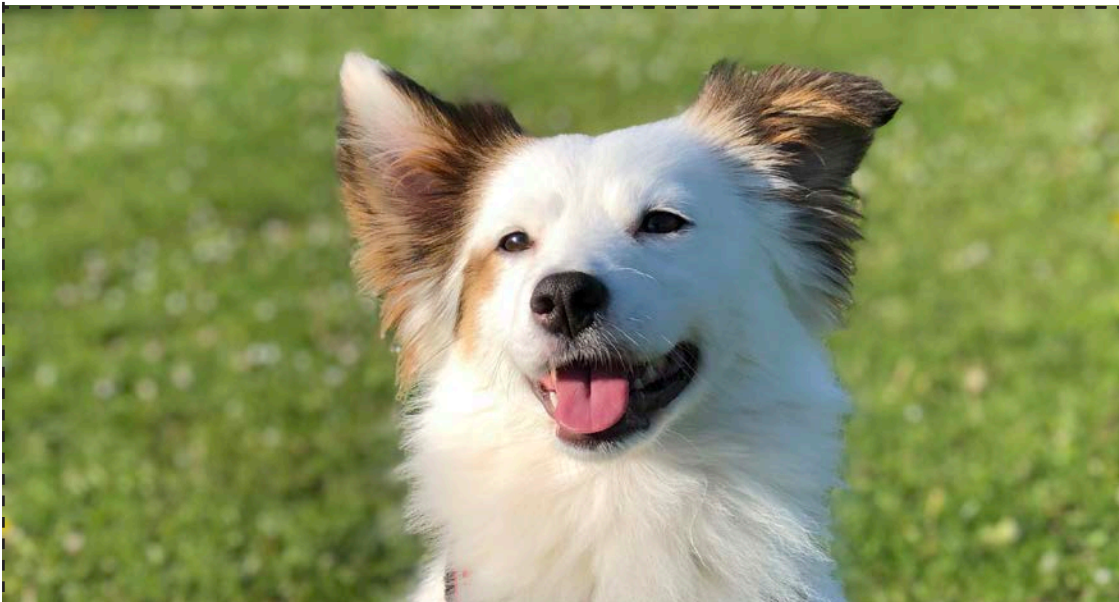
**Worried**



**Scared**



Lonely



Fericit





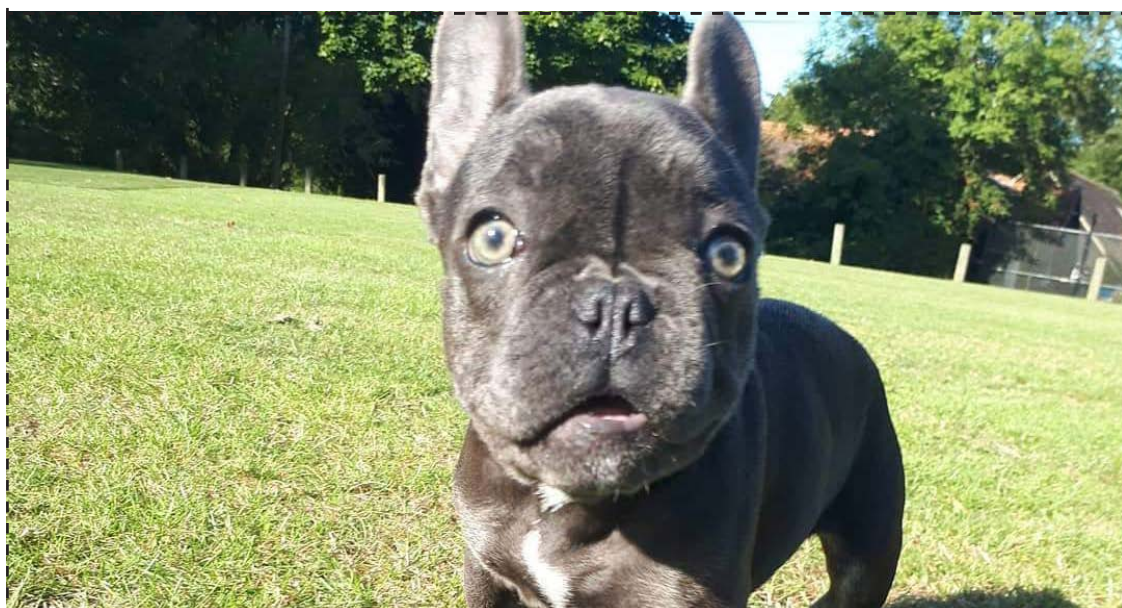
**Bucuros**



**Trist**



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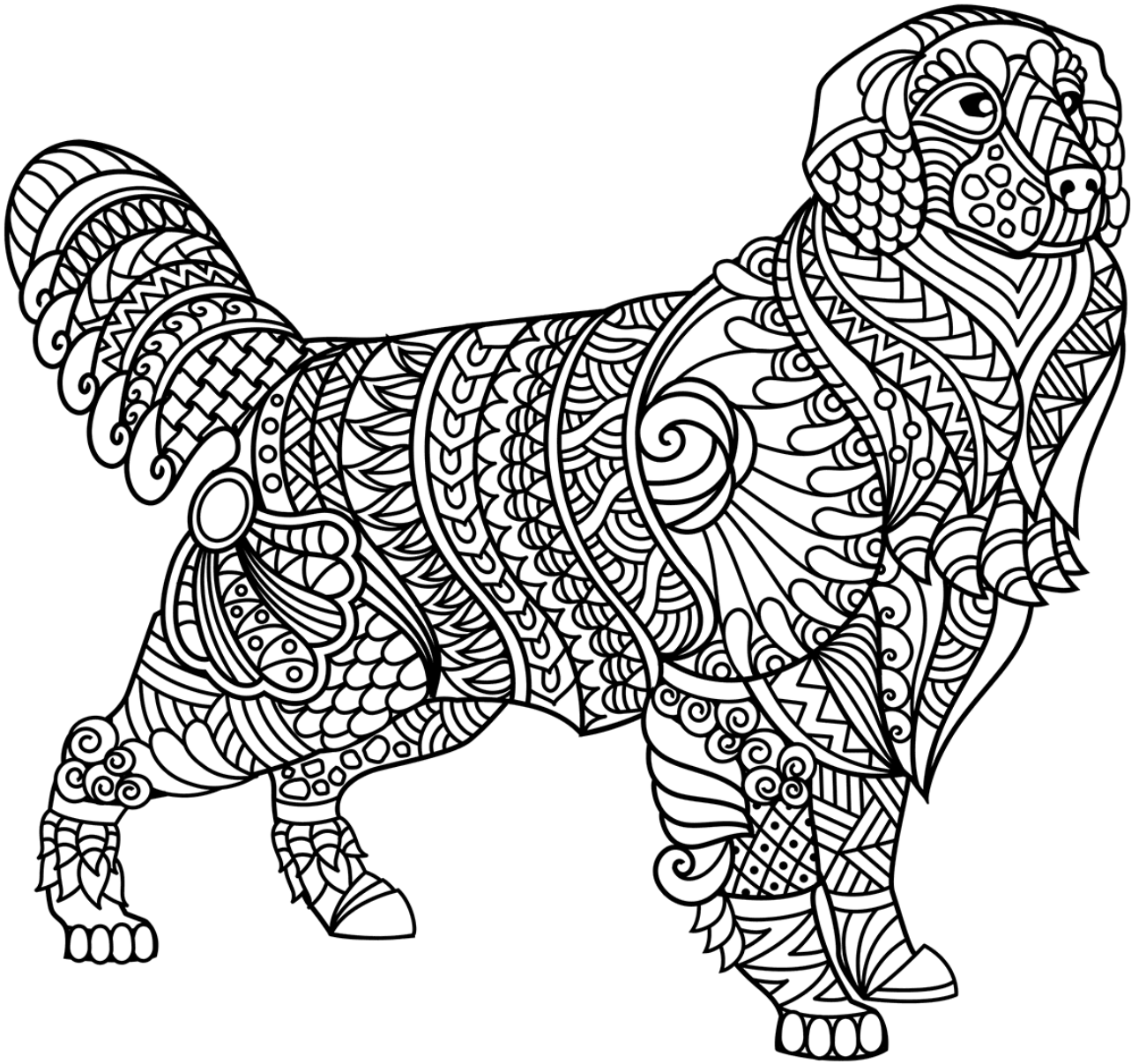
# Dogs have feelings too

Can you find these words to describe what the dog feels?

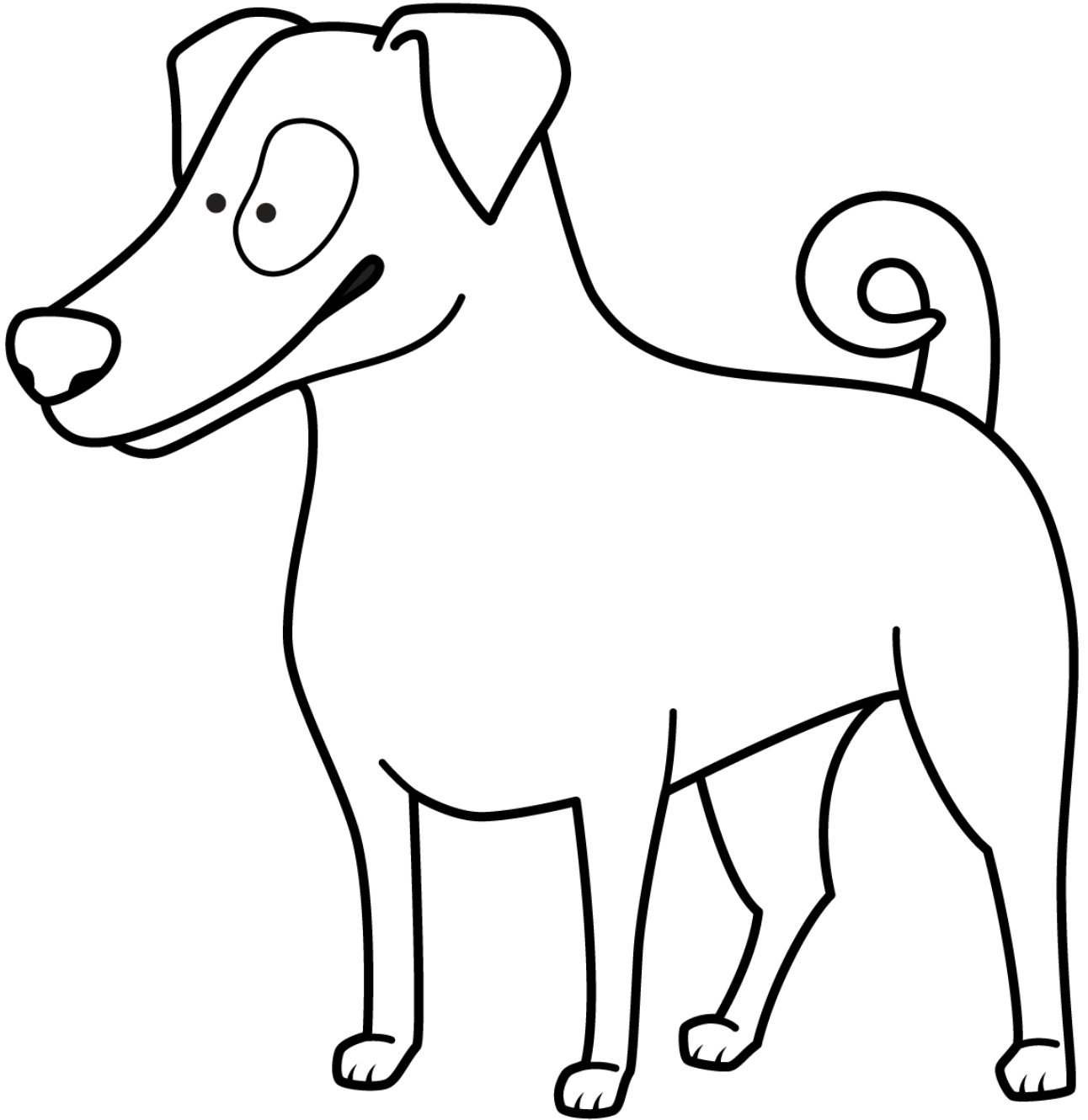
What the dog feels	How it feels
Terror	Terrified
Fright	Frightened
Fear	Scared
Sadness	Unhappy
Loneliness	Lonely
Hunger	Starving
Worry	Worried
Irritation	Itchy
Suffering	Painful

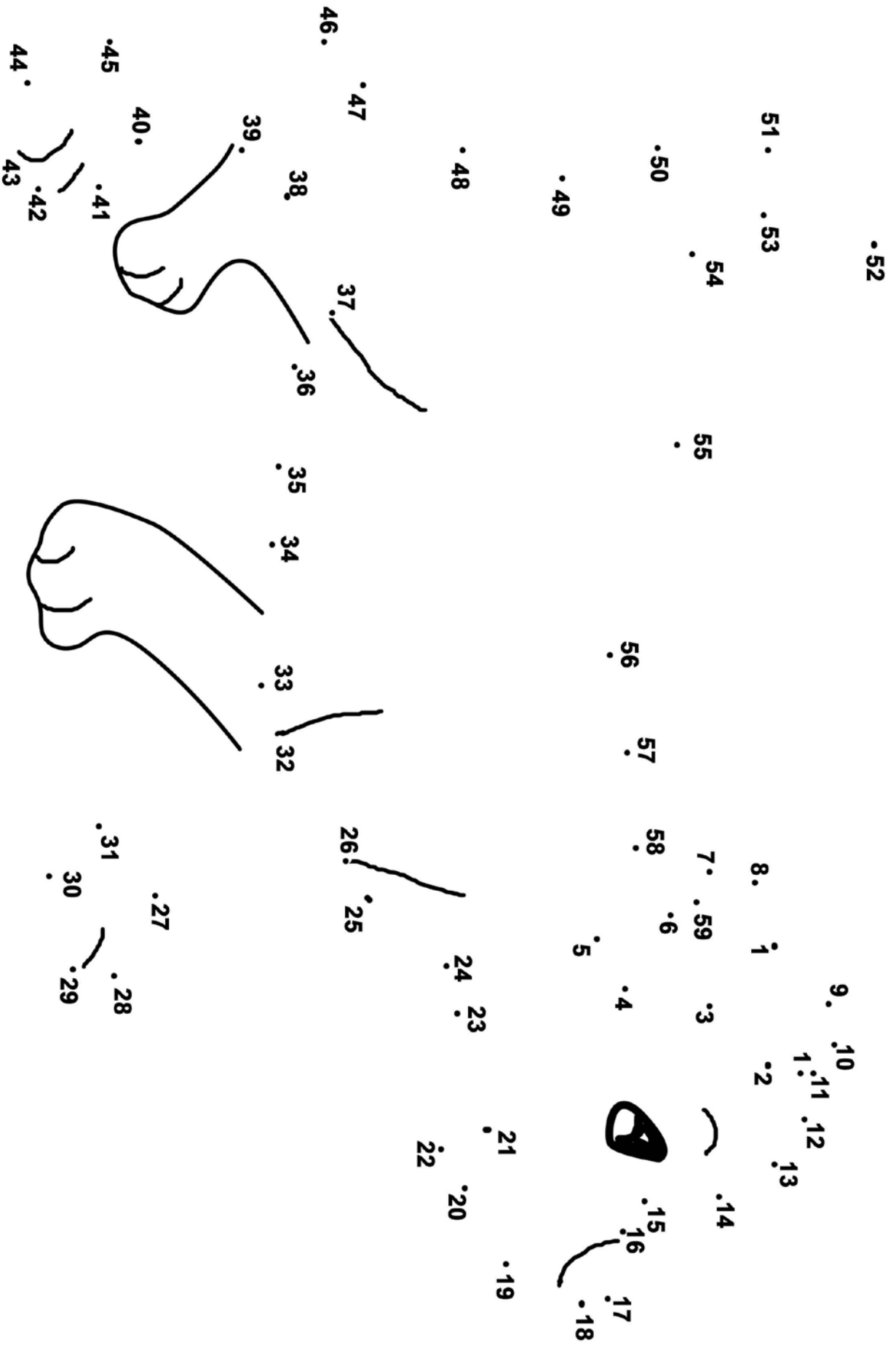
T	L	I	G	T	B	Z	F	V	Y	D	F	G	L	V
E	O	S	R	I	E	E	X	R	I	E	R	A	S	L
R	N	U	D	R	A	R	R	B	U	I	I	J	V	Q
R	E	F	E	R	I	O	R	N	B	R	G	A	O	D
I	L	F	R	R	W	T	H	O	I	R	H	Z	E	P
F	I	E	A	Y	E	A	A	T	R	O	T	N	L	A
I	N	R	C	C	P	G	C	T	H	W	E	X	O	I
E	E	I	S	P	X	H	N	B	I	T	F	C	N	N
D	S	N	Y	Z	Y	I	G	U	H	O	P	R	E	F
V	S	G	Y	B	W	U	C	G	H	C	N	O	L	U
S	A	D	N	E	S	S	I	L	A	U	K	N	Y	L
Z	L	C	P	S	X	R	S	T	A	R	V	I	N	G
D	Q	K	P	W	F	E	V	J	T	L	S	B	V	S
J	V	Q	F	O	J	Y	W	U	I	K	R	L	M	Q
Z	R	O	J	I	E	O	F	L	G	N	B	F	J	C

# More fun things to do!

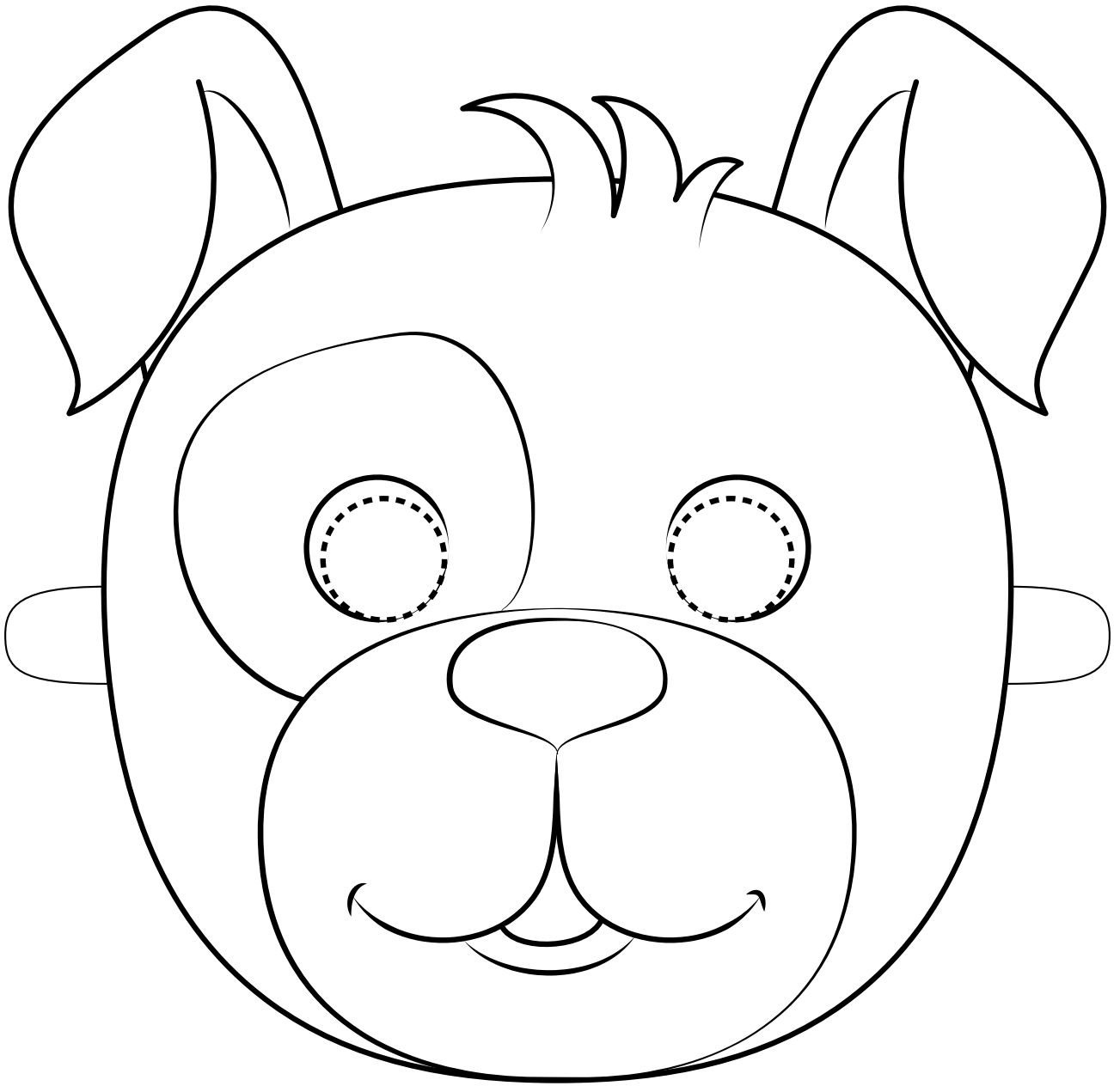


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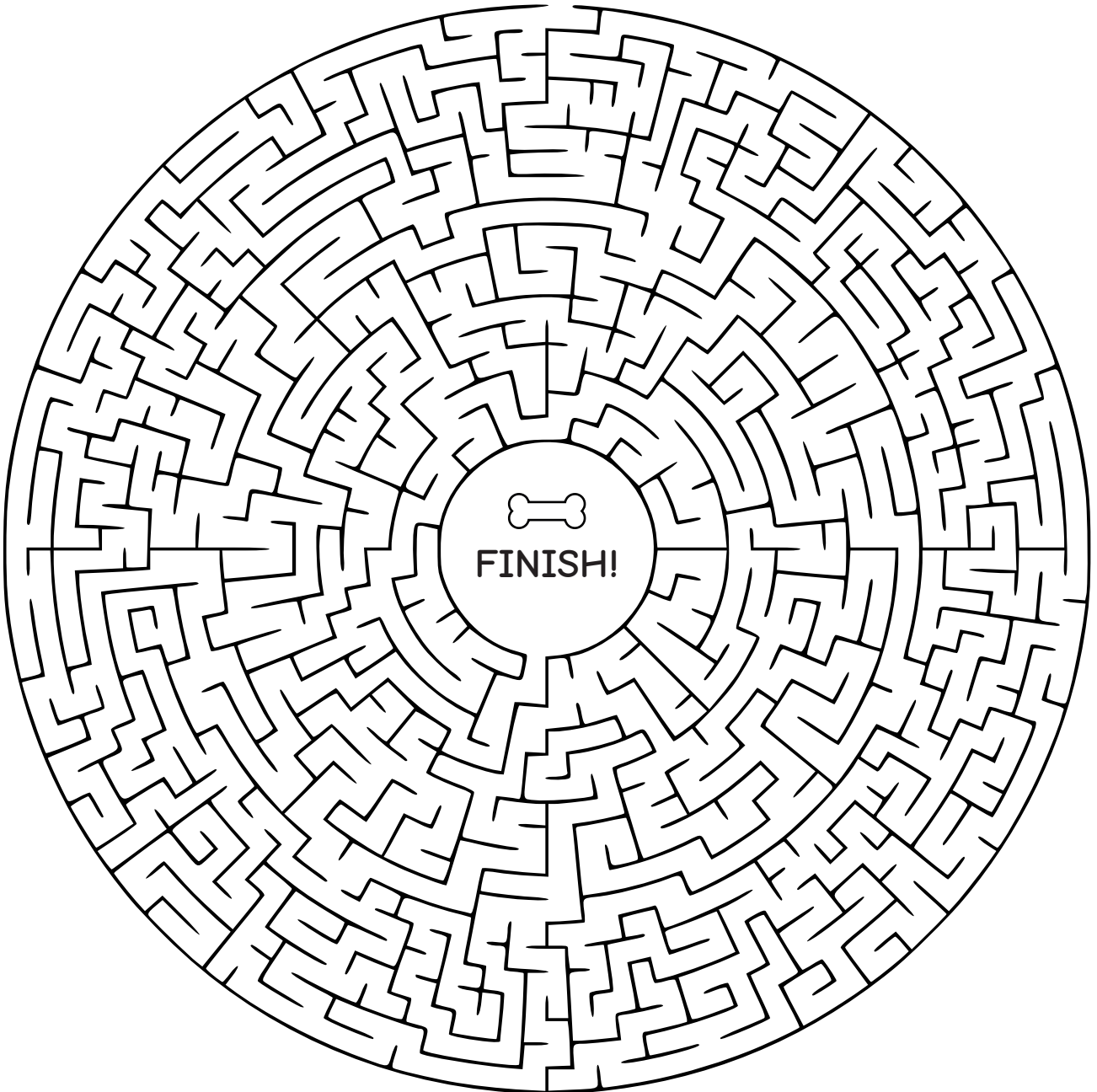




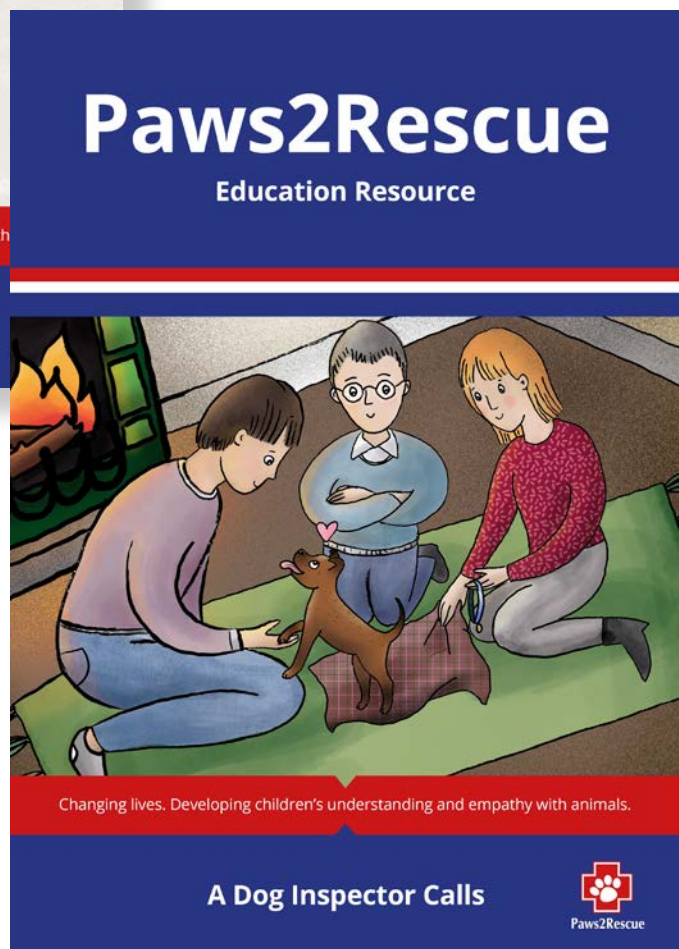
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START



# Other resources available:



## Contact us

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[www.paws2rescue.com](http://www.paws2rescue.com)



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