Go, Dog. Go!

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THE PLAYHOUSE

Getting to Know You:

The Cast of *Go, Dog. Go!*

We asked the cast and production team of *Go, Dog. Go!* what breed they would be if they woke tomorrow and had magically transformed into an honest-to-goodness real live dog. This is how they responded.

Mary Bricker (*MC Dog*) I think I'd be a Siberian husky. They are strong, independent, and make good leaders, but they are also very friendly. In addition, many of them have thick, snowy, white and gray hair. That sounds like me!

Scotty Cartwright (*Blue Dog*) I would be a Scottie dog, also known as a Scottish terrier. Obviously, they are the best-named breed, but also extremely smart, very loyal, and quite good looking if I do say so myself.

Ruth Christie (*Hattie/Spotted Dog*) I would be a Rhodesian ridgeback because they are unique and beautiful. They have a ridge that goes in the opposite direction of their fur. I think that sounds so jazzy and exquisite. It reminds me of myself – perfectly spunky!

Shelby Dale (*Yellow Dog*) I think I'd be a goldendoodle because they are high energy, just like me! They are also super friendly and love being around people, which is also just like me!

Jenna Darsee (*Stage Manager*) I'd be a mutt like my beloved dog, Greta Garbo. She is a Great Pyrenees/German shepherd mix, and is stubborn, strong, smart, and fierce, adores children, and is a leader by nature and a loyal combination of all things kind.

Toni Farris (*Assistant Director*) I would love to wake up as a cavalier King Charles spaniel. They are royal dogs with beautiful long hair. Their job is to cuddle and nap in the laps of their owners. Sounds ideal to me!

DC Felton (*Assistant Stage Manager*) I would probably say a golden retriever. I've always thought of them as kind and loyal, which I try to be to everyone I know.

Paul Honold (*Crew Dog/Black and White Dog*) I'd be a Jack Russell terrier, like Wishbone. Wishbone got to play a lot of different characters in different stories, plus he had an awesome theme song that I used to sing all the time!

Katy Merriman (*Director*) I would be a border collie because they are "demanding, playful, and energetic." I hear they are good family dogs, too, and I'd want to be a pup around lots of people in my home.

Carol Palmer (*Red Dog*) I would want to be a full-sized poodle that is really pampered. I'd have my fur cut fancy with bows in my hair. I love to be pretty!

Emmitt Reyerson (*Green Dog*) I would most definitely be a Chihuahua. I would need all the attention in the world and would look good doing it. I would, of course, have an assortment of sweaters and vests, and I would need to be carried around all day!

Brandon Record (*Music Director*) I would be a corgi, because I would love to know what it's like to have short legs, be able to fit under tables, and just lay around all day!

Joe Smith (*Crew Dog/Black and White Dog*) I would probably be a beagle. Apart from being the famous Snoopy breed, they are small, active, loyal, friendly, and generally get along with other dogs. They are apparently also hard to train because of their stubbornness. That's me!

What about you? I would be

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About the Author
P.D. Eastman (1909–1986)

P.D. Eastman was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, and graduated from Amherst College in 1933. After studying at the National Academy Design in New York City, he moved to Los Angeles to work at Walt Disney Studios as an animator. In 1943, he was inducted into the Army and was assigned to the Signal Corps Film unit, wo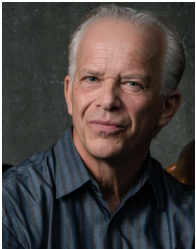rking on animation for training films. It was here that he met Theodore Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss), who was the head of his unit. Over a decade after he left the army, Geisel asked him to write for his new Beginner Books series. These eventually included Eastman's books *Go, Dog. Go!* and *Are You My Mother?* among others.

About the Playwrights
Allison Gregory & Steven Dietz

Allison Gregory and Steven Dietz are two playwrights who happen to be married to each other! While they wrote this play together, they usually write plays by themselves. We have produced many of Gregory's plays in our children's theatre, including *Junie B in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells*! (2021) and *Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt* (2019). The Playhouse also previously produced Dietz's play *Becky's New Car* in our 2012-13 mainstage season. Gregory and Dietz live in Austin, Texas, and Seattle, Washington, with their family.

Dog Sense

Dogs have five senses, just like us! In some ways, their senses are like ours, but in others they're a lot different. Here are some fun facts about how dogs see, hear, smell, taste, and touch the world around them.

Hearing

Dogs' hearing is much more sensitive than humans. They can hear noises not loud enough for human ears, and can also hear higher-pitched sounds, such as the dog whistle in today's performance. Dogs have even been known to "predict" earthquakes, which may be because they can hear seismic activity, like rocks moving underground, before it can be felt.

Smell

Did you know that a dog's nose has as many as 300 million receptors? In comparison, a human nose has about six million. The bloodhound's sense of smell is so accurate that the results of its tracking can be used as evidence in a court of law. Some dogs have such super noses they can be trained to sniff out medical problems such as cancer, malaria, COVID-19, and diabetes. Their sniffers are so sensitive they can detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water (enough to fill two Olympic-sized swimming pools)!

Taste

Did you ever wonder why dogs will eat just about anything including really gross stuff like rotten food? Because they only have a small percentage of the taste buds of humans, they aren't always very picky about how things taste. Like us, they can taste sweet, sour, salty, and bitter. Unlike us, they have special taste buds right on the tip of their tongue, just for tasting water. They even have taste buds in the back of their throat!

Sight

Contrary to popular belief, dogs are not color blind but they do not see in the way that humans do. Blue and yellow tones are pretty clear to them but red and green will mostly appear as gray or brown. Dogs also have extra large pupils that allow them to see better in the dark!

Touch

Dogs can be very sensitive to touch. Petting a dog can bring down their blood pressure and yours, too. Some dogs are more sensitive to touch than others. It is a good idea to learn where a dog likes to be touched when training or bonding with a dog.

Other canine facts

- Just like a person's fingerprint, each dog's nose print is unique. That means no two are alike!

- Dogs dream like people. Researchers found that dogs have similar sleep patterns and brain activity as humans, and that small breeds tend to dream more than large ones.

- There are more than 340 dog breeds known throughout the world. The American Kennel Club recognizes 199.

- Greyhounds can beat cheetahs in a race. While cheetahs are the fastest land animal in the world, and can run twice as fast as greyhounds, they can only maintain that 70-mph speed for about 30 seconds. A Greyhound can maintain a 35-mph speed for about seven miles. So, the cheetah may start out first, but the greyhound will soon overtake him. Kind of like the tortoise and the hare!

- A mastiff named Zorba is the world's overall largest dog ever. Zorba weighed 343 pounds and measured over eight feet from his nose to his tail. By contrast, the smallest dog ever recorded was Miracle Milly, the Chihuahua. Born in 2011, Milly was a tiny 3.8 inches tall and weighed in at one pound.

- Rin Tin Tin, a German shepherd, was a silent movie star who appeared in 27 Hollywood films. He is the only dog (so far) to be nominated for an Academy Award.

- As anyone who has watched Disney's *101 Dalmatians* knows, Dalmatians are born completely white and develop their spots as they get older.

A Dog by Any Other Name

Dog names have changed a lot throughout the years. In 2022, the most common dog names included Bella, Luna, Lucy, Max, Charlie, and Milo. If you're curious about how much dog name trends change, here are some popular ones from Medieval times: Blawnche, Nosewise, Smylfeste, Bragge, Holdfast, Zaphyro, Zalbot, Mopsus, and Mopsulus.
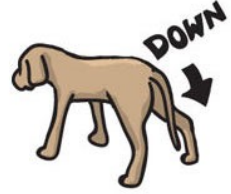
Dog Tales

Dogs use their tails to communicate with people and other animals. Look below to see what your dog's tale is telling you!

Alert and excited

Neutral and exploring

Submissive and concerned

Concerned or unpleasant about person or animal

Excited

Happier

Pleasant about person or animal

Less enthusiastic

Anxious or uptight

Graphic copyright doghealth.com

Eye Spy

There are words visible on the set during today's performance. Cross off each word once you've seen it, then listen for it in the play.

dog	green	under	what
big	yellow	night	where
little	sun	sleep	tree
black	hot	top	boat
white	up	around	like
in	down	day	some
out	work	go	splash
hat	play	zoom	two
red	stop	car	now
blue	over	why	

AFTER THE SHOW:
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **In what ways are the dogs in today's play both like, and not like, real dogs?** How are they both like, and not like, people?
2. Some performers had to learn how to ride a scooter, juggle, and throw and catch. **What new skill or ability have you had to learn** to do in an activity or sport?
3. **How did the actors' movements and costumes show us that they are playing dogs?***
4. What if P.D. Eastman had written a book called *Go, Cat. Go!* or *Go, Fish. Go!* **How would that book have been different?** How would this play have been different?

*Here's a fun creative drama exercise you can do with your friends or family. One person acts as the leader and calls out different animals while the others walk around the room as those animals. Walk like a dog, snake, shark, or star-bellied sneetch! Think about how each animal moves and try to move your body in the same way. You can add your voice, too. Take turns being the leader, and let your imaginations go for a "doggone" good time!

RAMP & ROLL!

Now that we've been inspired by all the movement in the play, let's conduct an experiment using a simple machine that is designed to help things "go"!

A simple machine is one that has few or no moving parts. They make work easier by allowing us to use less effort to move an object. Examples of a simple machine would be an inclined plane or ramp, lever, and screw.

Let's conduct an experiment
Using our own self-made ramps, let's investigate gravity (the force that pulls thing down), friction (resistance), and momentum (how hard it is to stop an object).

First, let's build those ramps! You can make them out of just about anything including pool noodles or carboard tubes (cut in half lengthwise), cereal boxes, car tracks, wooden planks, etc. In fact, make more than one out of a variety of materials to see how each ramp's surface affects speed.

Once you have your ramps built, collect a variety of objects to roll down them. Marbles and toy cars are a good place to start. Try to find objects of different sizes to experiment with.

Now let's have some fun! Start sending your objects down your ramps. Change the ramp angles as well, to see which angles are faster or slower. Add texture to your ramps using items such as sandpaper, cloth, carpet, etc. See how these different textures create friction and change the speed of your objects. Roll items side by side to compare them, such as a marble and a tennis ball.

See if you can predict the outcomes before each round and write down what you learned when you're done!

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