Puddle Puppy

Why do dogs shake after getting wet?



Did you know? A dog can twist its body rapidly from side to side. That motion whips the wet fur back and forth and sends drops of water flying. Shaking removes some of the water before the coat finishes drying.

Sleepy Dachshund

Why does a dachshund have such short legs?



Did you know? Dachshunds were bred to hunt animals that live in burrows. Their low bodies made it easier to move through tight tunnels. Dachshunds can have smooth, long, or wiry coats, but all three coat types share those short legs.

Border Collie at Work

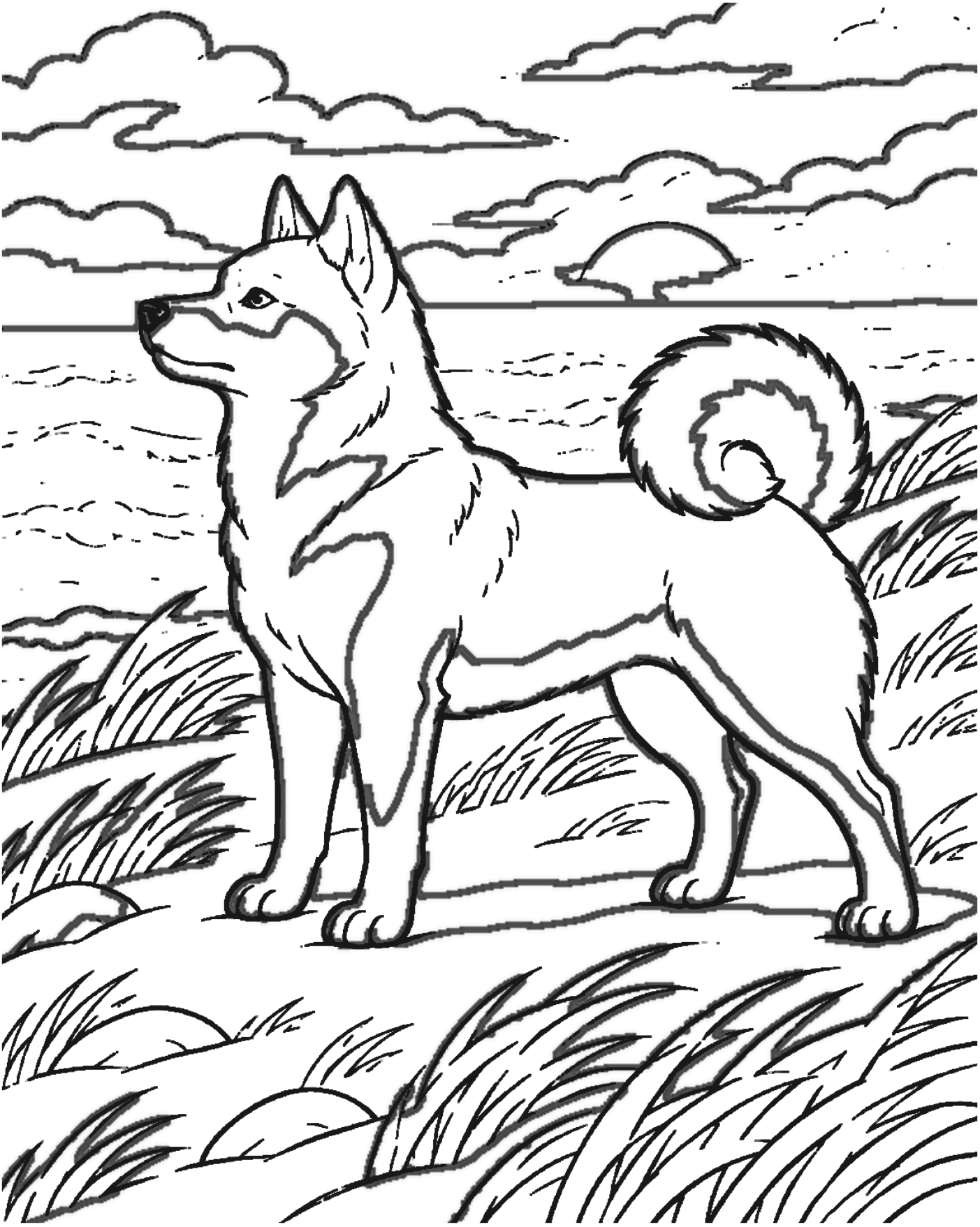
How does a border collie move a flock?



Did you know? A trained border collie can circle the flock and approach low to the ground. Its steady gaze and the direction it moves encourage the sheep to move together. The handler can guide the dog with voice or whistle signals.

Shiba on the Coast

Why does a Shiba Inu have two layers of fur?



Did you know? A Shiba Inu has a softer undercoat beneath an outer coat of stiffer hairs. The two layers give the coat its full, springy look. Notice how the fur stands away from its neck and curled tail.

Corgi on the Steps

What work did short-legged corgis once do?



Did you know? Pembroke Welsh corgis worked on farms, where they helped move cattle. Their job sometimes took them close to the cattle's heels. Their low bodies are easy to see as they take the garden steps.

Papillons at Play

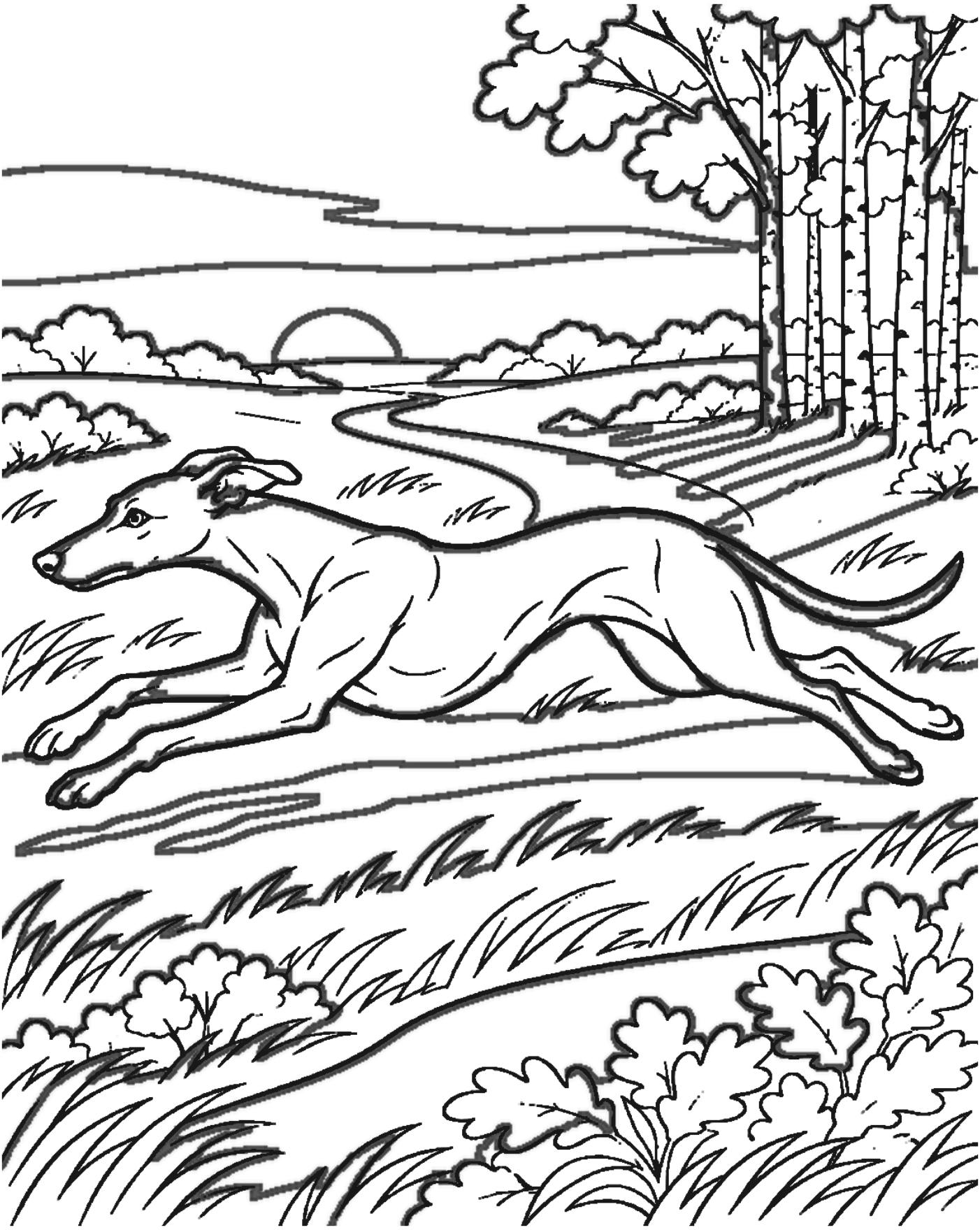
Why are Papillons named after butterflies?



Did you know? Papillon means butterfly in French. The breed's upright ears have long fringes that spread out to either side like wings. Look at both dogs' ears in this picture even while they are busy with the toy.

Whippet Sprint

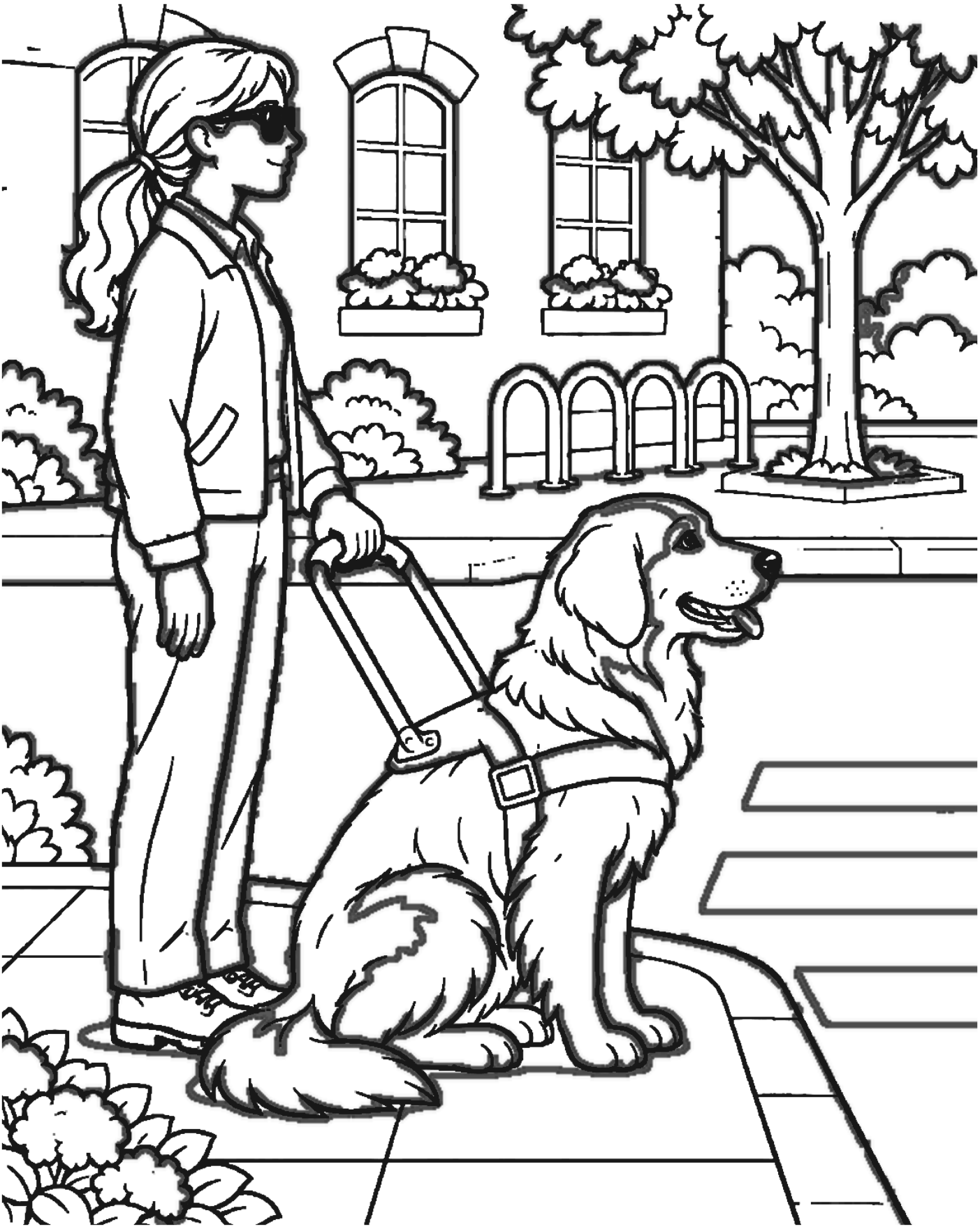
Why does a whippet have a deep chest and a narrow waist?



Did you know? A whippet has a chest that reaches down toward its elbows and a belly that curves upward behind it. This gives the breed its distinctive running silhouette. In a fast gallop, the body folds and stretches as the legs swing underneath and then reach away.

Guide Dog at the Curb

Who decides when a guide dog team crosses a street?



Did you know? The dog helps its handler find and stop at the curb. The handler decides when to give the command to cross. During training, the dog learns to stop or wait when a vehicle blocks the way.

Chihuahua Blanket Nest

Why does a dog paw at a blanket before lying down?



Did you know? Some dogs turn, paw or rearrange their bedding before they settle. Pushing cloth around can build a soft nest. Watch how much this little Chihuahua has moved the folds of the blanket.

Spaniel in the Shallows

What do people mean by feathering on a dog?



Did you know? Feathering means long, soft hair that hangs from parts of a dog's coat. An English springer spaniel can have feathering on its ears, chest, legs and underside. You can spot the longer hair around the ears on this page.

Pug in the Mirror

Is a mirror the only way to recognize yourself?



Did you know? A mirror gives back a picture. Dogs also learn a lot from smells. In one study, dogs sniffed a changed sample of their own scent longer than an unchanged sample. The researchers called their experiment an olfactory mirror.

Lagotto Truffle Hunt

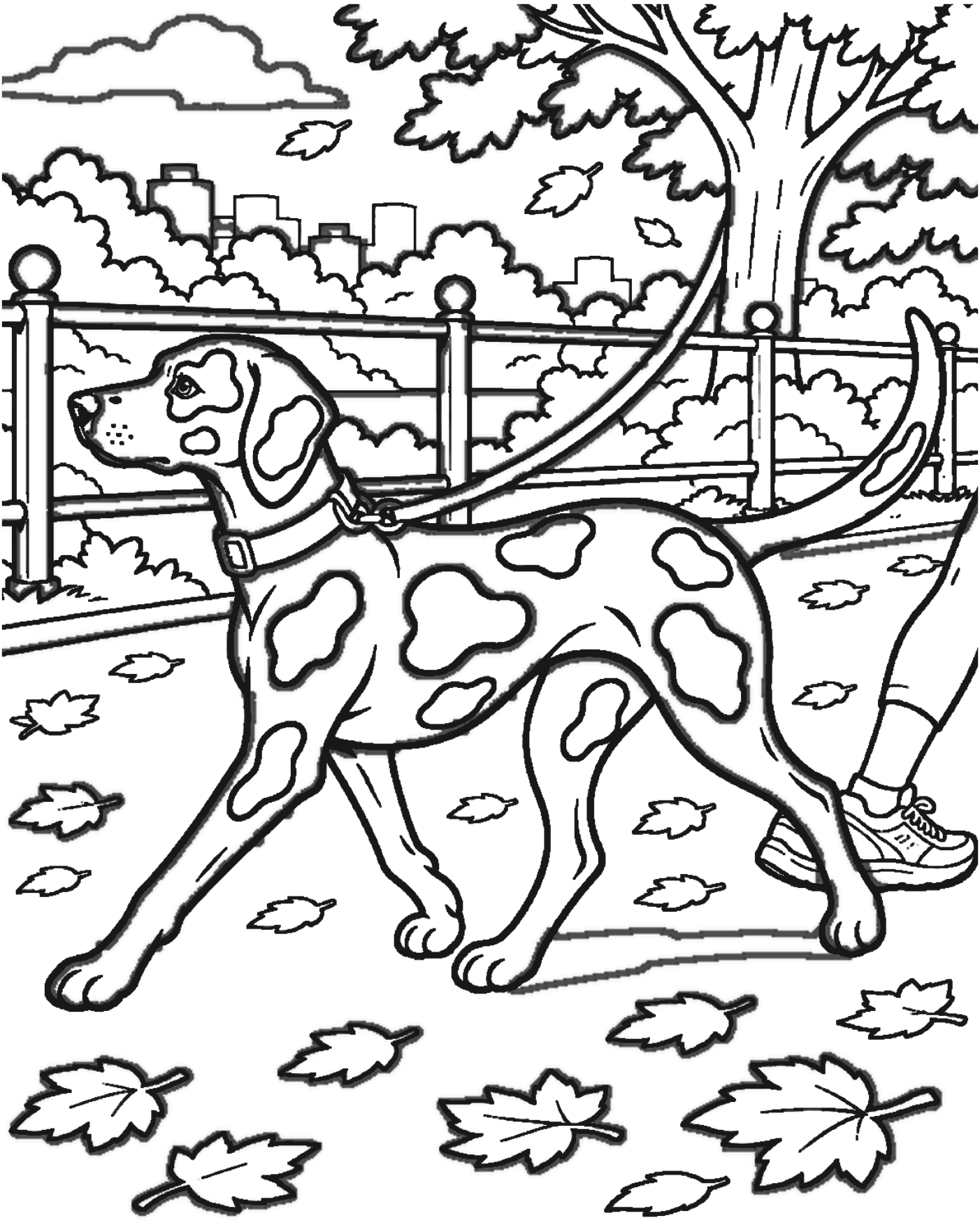
How can a dog find a truffle hidden under leaves and soil?



Did you know? Truffles are fungi that grow underground. They give off a scent that a trained dog can follow. A Lagotto may mark the spot with a paw so its handler can dig the truffle out carefully.

Dalmatian on a Run

When do the spots appear on a Dalmatian puppy?



Did you know? Most Dalmatian puppies are born with mostly white coats. Spots become visible as their coats grow. Adult spots can be black or liver brown, and each dog's pattern looks a little different.

Bulldog on Cool Tiles

Why can a tile feel cooler than a rug in the same room?



Did you know? Tile and a rug can start at the same temperature. Tile conducts heat away from a warm body faster, so it can feel colder when you touch it. A dog stretched out on the tiles makes contact over a larger area.

Husky and Sled

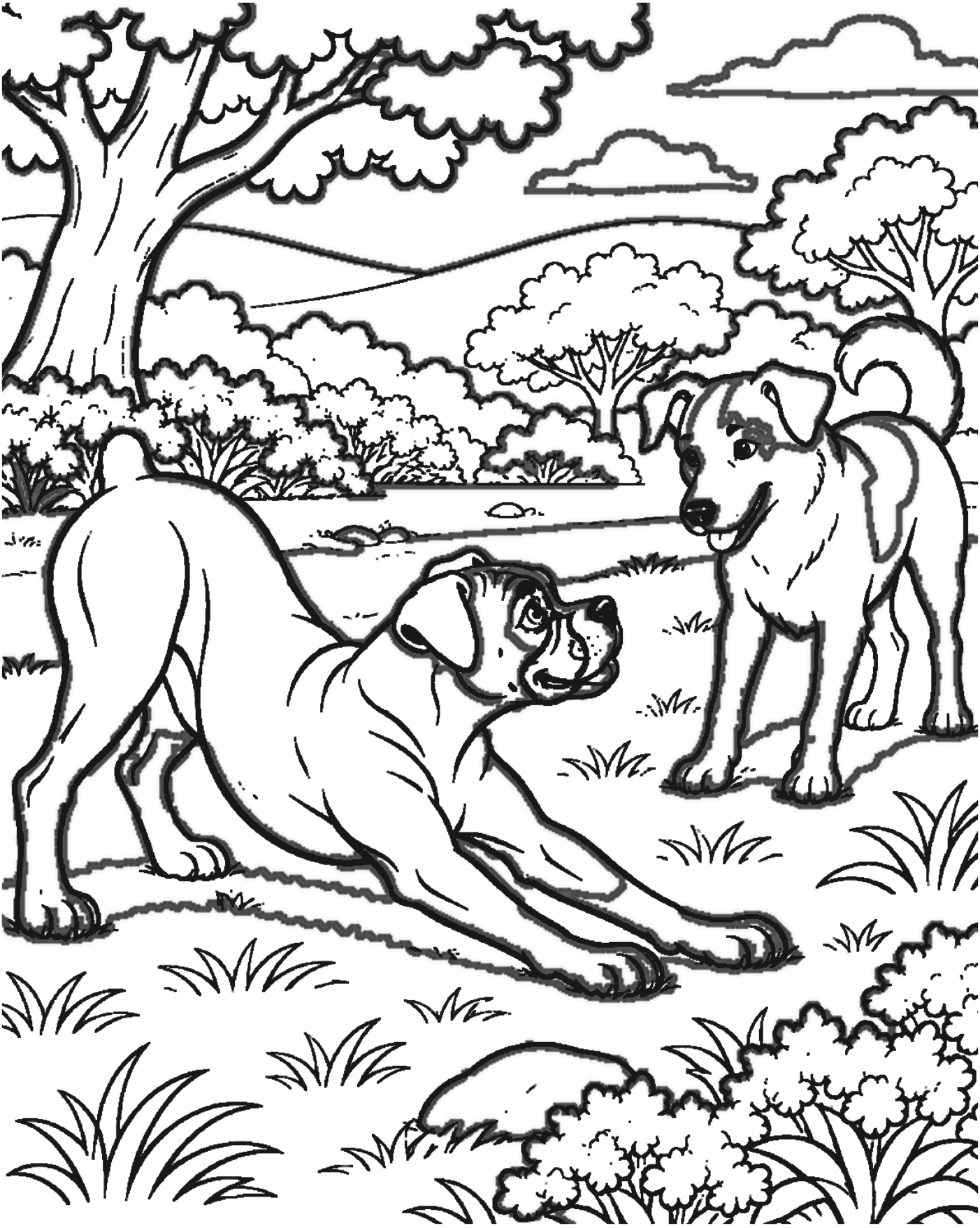
How does a sled dog pull without a strap on its neck?



Did you know? A harness spreads the pull across the dog's chest and body. A line connects the harness to the sled or to the team's main line. Look for the way the line leads away behind this husky.

Boxer Play Bow

What does a dog mean when it bows to another dog?



Did you know? A play bow often starts a game or invites another dog to keep playing. The dog lowers its front while its hind end stays up. This recognizable movement can help tell a play partner that a chase is part of a game.

Terrier Catch

What is a disc dog trying to catch?



Did you know? In disc dog games, a handler throws a light flying disc for the dog to chase. Some games count clean catches, while others use short catches in a routine. This terrier is looking up at the disc as it comes within reach.

Newfoundland Rescue

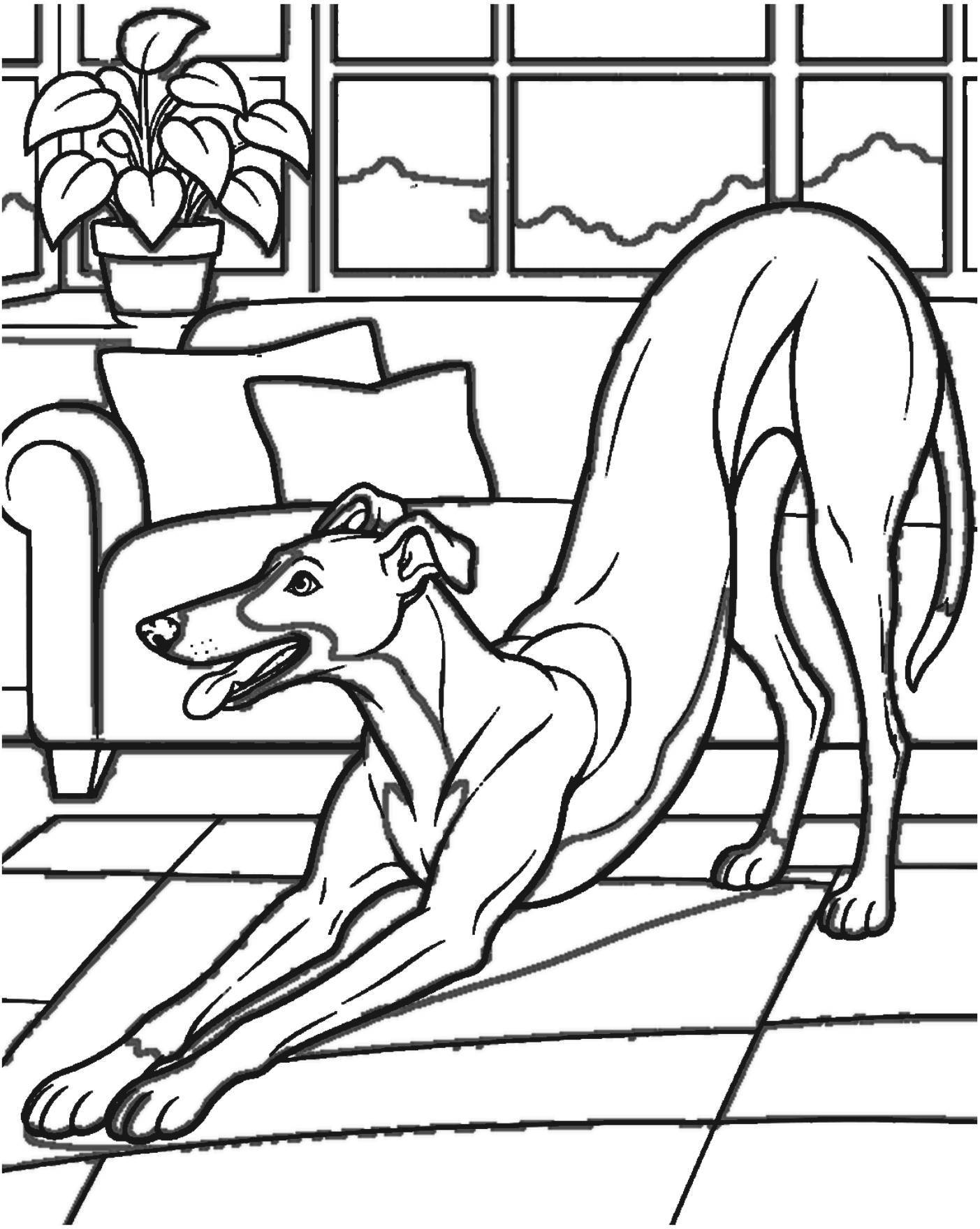
How can a Newfoundland help from the water?



Did you know? During a water rescue test, a trained Newfoundland can carry a line out or tow something back toward shore. The dog follows a handler's cues. An orange floating line is easy to spot on the water in this drawing.

Greyhound Stretch

Which part of a greyhound helps it push off when it runs?



Did you know? A greyhound's back legs make a strong push during acceleration. Researchers measuring racing greyhounds found that the hip made a large contribution to the power of that push. When this dog stretches, you can see how long its limbs are.

Sheltie Waits a Turn

How can a dog learn to wait?



Did you know? A handler can ask for a very short pause, then give the dog a release cue. Rewards help the dog learn what the cue means. The time and the distractions can build up gradually after the short pauses work.

Shepherd Scent Search

How can a dog find a hidden object with its nose?



Did you know? Every object can carry a mix of scents. In scent work, a dog learns which smell to look for, then searches spaces where the smell is strongest. It can signal to its handler when it finds the right spot.

Bernese Greeting

What jobs did Bernese mountain dogs do on farms?



Did you know? Bernese mountain dogs worked on farms in Switzerland. They helped move cattle and could pull small carts carrying goods. The broad shoulders of the adult in this picture make an interesting contrast with the puppy's small frame.

Poodle Weave

Why does an agility dog wind between poles?



Did you know? Weave poles are one obstacle on a dog agility course. The dog enters on the correct side and alternates left and right until it passes the last pole. The handler guides the dog while moving alongside the obstacle.

Beagle on the Trail

Why does a beagle sniff in short bursts?



Did you know? Each sniff draws new air past the dog's nose. The shape of its nasal passages sends some air toward the surfaces that sense odors. Quick sniffs help a dog sample the trail again as it moves.

Shelter Dog Says Hello

Why might a person wait for a shy dog to come closer?



Did you know? A new person can feel surprising to a shy dog. Staying still and giving the dog room lets it choose when to investigate. A quiet first meeting gives both the person and dog time to get used to each other.