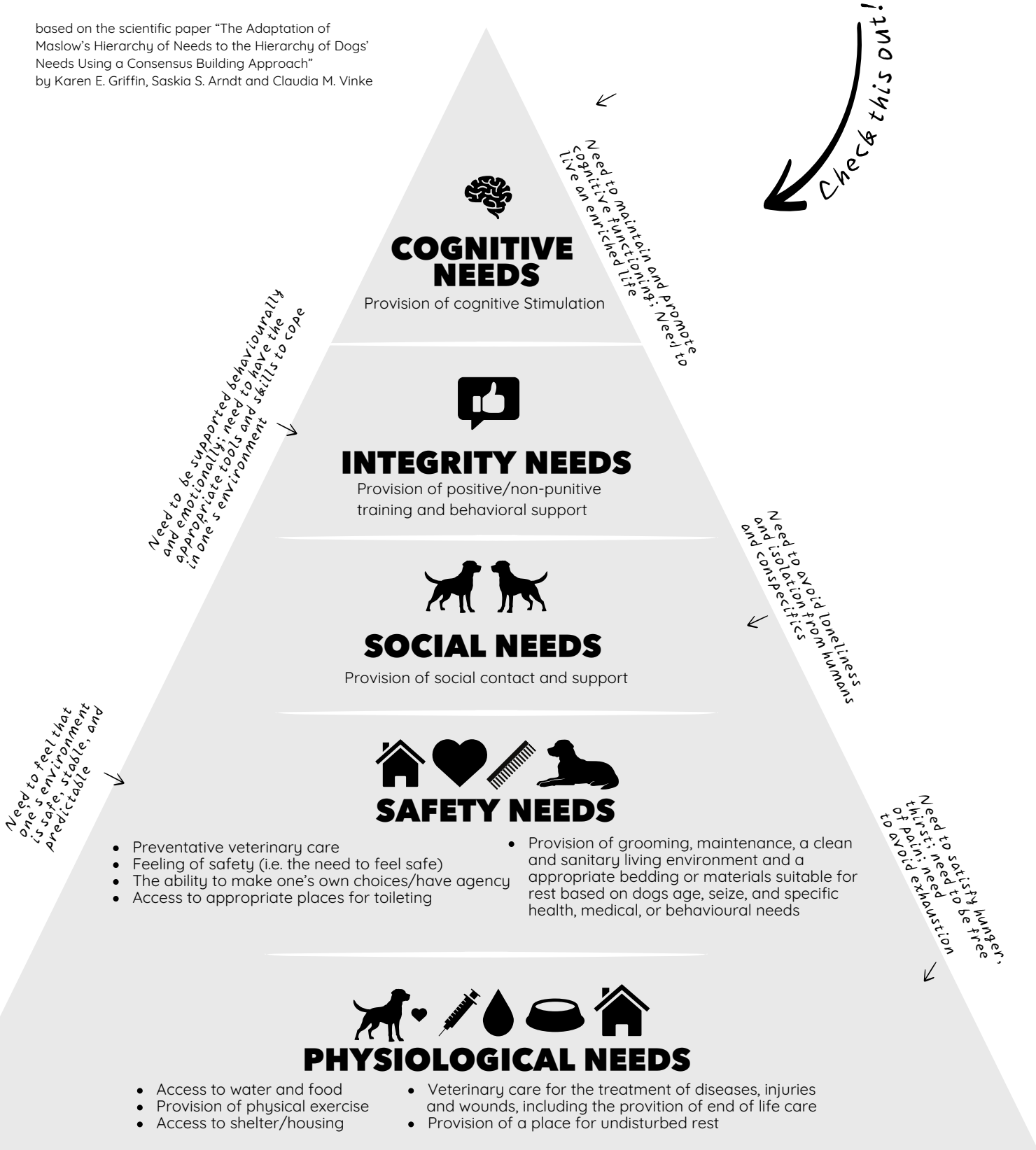




THE Dogs and Science HIERARCHY OF DOG NEEDS

DO YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES YOUR DOG HAPPY?

based on the scientific paper "The Adaptation of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to the Hierarchy of Dogs' Needs Using a Consensus Building Approach" by Karen E. Griffin, Saskia S. Arndt and Claudia M. Vinke



THE Dogs and Science HIERARCHY OF DOG NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL

*Tool based on the scientific paper of Griffin et al. 2023

WHAT IS THIS TOOL?

This tool, developed by Dogs and Science based on the scientific study by Griffin et al. (2023), is designed to help you assess how well your dog's (or your client's dog's) needs are being met across different areas of their life. Just like humans, dogs have various physical, emotional, and social needs that contribute to their overall well-being.

WHY USE THIS TOOL?

Understanding your dog's needs in a structured way helps you improve their quality of life. This tool encourages thoughtful reflection and helps you ensure that your dog's care is balanced, whether you're a pet owner or a professional working with dogs. It also highlights areas that may need attention and empowers you to make small changes that could have a big impact on your dog's overall well-being.

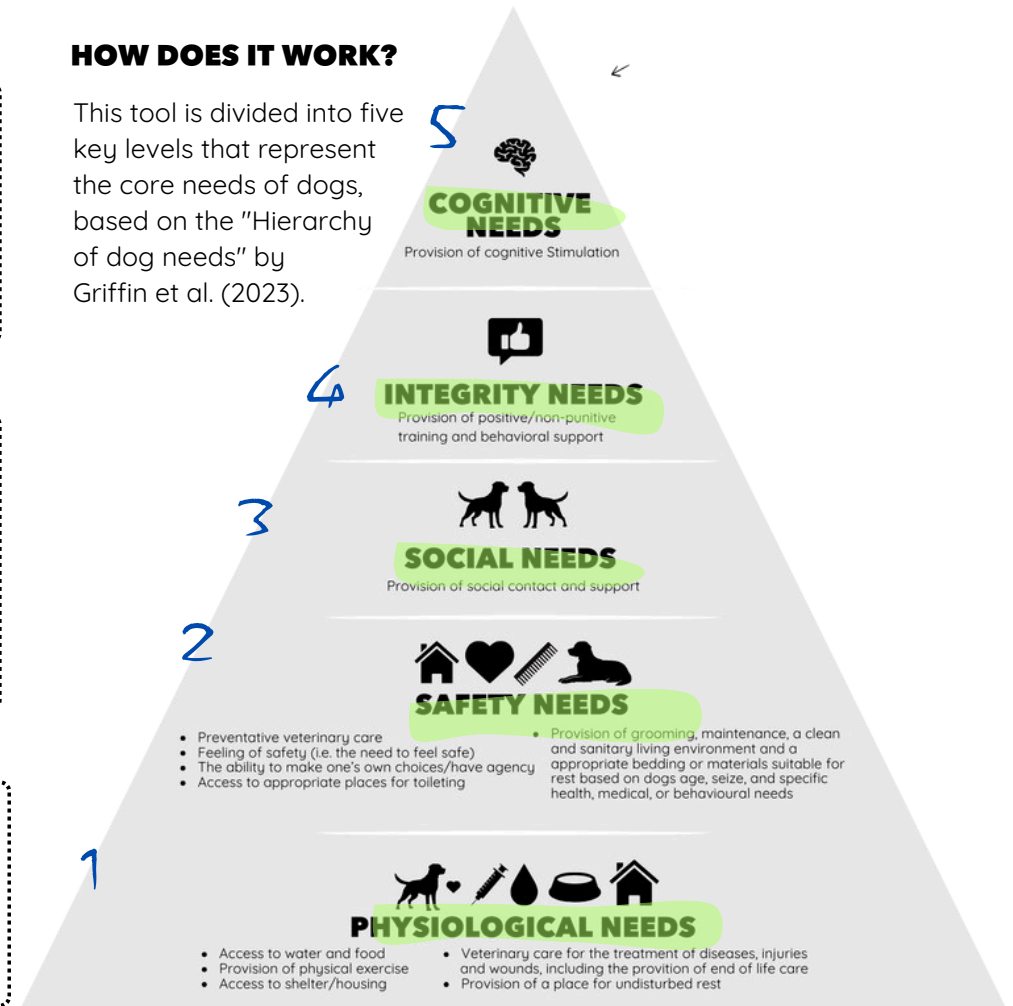
GET STARTED

Take your time with this tool—there are no right or wrong answers. The goal is to reflect on how you're meeting your dog's needs and to use that insight to make any necessary adjustments. Your dog's happiness, health, and well-being depend on how well their needs are met in all areas, and this tool will help you see the full picture.

UNDERSTANDING AND MEETING YOUR DOG'S NEEDS

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This tool is divided into five key levels that represent the core needs of dogs, based on the "Hierarchy of dog needs" by Griffin et al. (2023).





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STEP 3

ADJUST THE TOOL IF NECESSARY

If you notice that certain areas of the hierarchy don't fully address your dog's unique needs, adjust the tool to reflect this. You may want to:

- Add specific needs that are unique to your dog (e.g., special medical care, particular behavioural needs).
- Assign different weightings to certain levels of the hierarchy for your dog. *For example, for a senior dog, you might place higher priority on safety, rest, and comfort, while reducing the emphasis on movement needs.*

This step allows you to tailor the tool to better fit your dog's individual requirements, ensuring their care is personalized and comprehensive.

STEP 4

EVALUATE AND INTERPRET

Take a moment to reflect:

- Are you meeting these needs adequately, too little, or perhaps too much?
- Do any of these needs require a higher priority based on your dog's individual characteristics?
- Is there a balance between physical care and emotional well-being?
- Does your dog have enough mental stimulation, or too much, leading to stress?

UNDERSTANDING AND MEETING YOUR DOG'S NEEDS

For each category, mark your evaluation based on whether you think you are covering that need adequately, too little, or too much.

- **Adequately:** Your dog's need in this area is well covered.
- **Too little:** Your dog might benefit from more attention or resources in this area.
- **Too much:** You may be overcompensating, which could lead to overstimulation, stress, or fatigue.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:

- Is my dog relaxed and happy, or are they showing signs of stress or frustration?
- Does my dog have a balance between physical activity and mental stimulation?
- Could there be areas where I'm overdoing things, like too much excitement or constant training?

Need to maintain and promote cognitive functioning; Need to live an enriched life



COGNITIVE NEEDS

too much

- foodsearch
- play, enrichment, training
- _____
- _____

Need to be supported behaviourally and emotionally; need to have the appropriate tools and skills to cope in one's environment



INTEGRITY NEEDS

too much?

- support during fireworks
- support meeting other dogs, when shes afraid
- _____
- _____

Need to avoid loneliness and isolation from humans and conspecifics



SOCIAL NEEDS

adequately

- More contact with other dogs needed?
- not often alone at home
- _____
- _____

Need to feel that one's environment is safe, stable, and predictable



SAFETY NEEDS

adequately

- Make new vet appointment for prevention
- Feeling of safety: CHECK!
- Own decisions: CHECK!
- toilet: CHECK!
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Need to satisfy hunger, thirst; need to be free of pain; need to avoid exhaustion



PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS

adequately

- food 2x per day
- check quality of food. Is there a better one?
- nice and decent place in bedroom and living room
- _____
- _____
- _____

