

Hot Diggity-Dog!¹

By Donna Walter

What José thought would be an ordinary trip to the dog park turned into an adventure he could not have imagined! When José and his dog, Panda, showed up at the park, there were colorful ribbons dancing in the breeze and clusters of balloons tied to the fence.

“What’s going on here?!” José wondered aloud. Panda shook her head and barked at the balloons.



“Hi, there!” said a kind-faced gentleman at the gate to the park. “We’re having some competitions here today! Does your dog know any tricks?”

“Oh, she’s a good dog,” José said, giving Panda a pat on the head. “She can sit and lie down. She stays when I tell her to. She’ll give you her paw when you ask for it too.”

“That’s great,” the man said. “She must be smart, and I can tell you’ve taken the time to train her. That’s very good. May I give her a treat?” he asked. “These are pumpkin-peanut butter doggie biscuits. I make ‘em myself!”

“Sure,” said José. “Just make sure she sits for it. I want her to be well-behaved.” The man asked Panda to sit, and then then gave her the treat after she sat. José smiled and said, “Good girl, Panda!”

There were 12 dogs in various areas of the dog park doing all kinds of tricks. The people in one area were laughing and cheering for dogs doing backflips! José could hardly believe his eyes as one dog after another did a perfect backflip! Three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the 12 dogs could do a backflip.

How many dogs in the park can do a backflip? _____

The man watched José grow excited. “Isn’t that something?” he asked. “You should check out the dogs on the track!” Beyond the dogs doing backflips, José saw some orange cones set up on part of a running track.

“C’mon, Panda,” he said. “Let’s see what is happening!” Panda gave an excited bark and off they ran. José could hardly believe his eyes when he saw dogs riding on skateboards! “Wow!” he said.

¹ Suggested Grades 4-6 Skills: Word problems involving addition, subtraction and multiplication with fractions & counting money

"That's my dog, Duchess," said a girl standing nearby. She pointed to a squatty little bulldog riding a skateboard the whole length of the track between the cones. "She's the skateboarding champ here. She just won this blue ribbon," she said, holding out a ribbon that read, "First Place – Skateboarding." The girl was obviously very proud of her dog. "Only one third of these dogs in the park right now can skateboard," she said, "and my Duchess is the best!"



How many dogs in the park can skateboard? _____

Adding the number of dogs that can backflip to those that can skateboard results in a number greater than 12, but there are only 12 dogs in the dog park. What must be true? _____

Did You Know? Tillman was an English bulldog who held the Guinness World Record for "Fastest 100 meters on a skateboard by a dog." He appeared on *Greatest American Dog*, a reality TV show. Tillman rode on the Natural Balance float in the Rose Parade and he is one of the stars of "Who Let the Dogs Out," a movie special. He died on October 27, 2015. Tillman's nickname was Pot Roast.

Why are bulldogs so good at skateboarding?

Bulldogs love attention and, contrary to some beliefs, are generally sweet and affectionate animals. A Bulldog's center of gravity is low (close to the ground), which makes it easier for them to control their weight and balance on a skateboard. While some people work hard to train their dogs to go on skateboards, Bulldogs are a natural at it – they just step on and shred!

José looked at the 12 dogs in the park and did a calculation in his head. He realized that a half ($1/2$) of the skateboarding dogs and a third ($1/3$) of the back-flipping dogs were white with black spots.

Can you figure out how many dogs are white with black spots from the information you have? (Hint: You must first consider the answer to the last question above: What must be true?) _____

Assume that 1 white dog with black spots can both skateboard and do a back flip and she is the only dog that can do both. Now figure out how many dogs are white with black spots. _____

Of the remaining dogs, 5 were dark brown and the rest were golden. How many goldens are in the group? _____

"This ribbon isn't all Duchess won today," the girl said with a smile. "There was a cash prize, too!" She held out a crisp \$20 bill. "Come on! Let's go get some ice cream," she said. "My treat!" She called to Duchess and the chubby little dog came running.

"My name's Elizabeth," the girl said. José answered, "I'm José, and this is Panda." Panda gave a happy bark and Elizabeth snapped Duchess' leash on her collar. The four of them walked across the grass to a friendly woman selling ice cream from a cart. The

sign read \$2.50 for a single scoop and \$3 for two scoops. Waffle cones cost an additional 50 cents.

“Let’s go for the doubles,” Elizabeth said. “It’s a better deal, and I’m hungry!” “Yeah, if you don’t mind,” said José. “I really love ice cream!”

“Let’s get them in the waffle cones,” she added. “Nah, I’m fine with mine in a cup,” José said. They each got a scoop of vanilla and a scoop of chocolate. Elizabeth decided to get a waffle cone anyway.

How much did Elizabeth pay for the ice cream? _____

How much change did she get back? _____

“That was really great. Thank you,” said José when they were finished with their ice creams. “And thank you, Duchess! After all, you were the prize winner!”

“Yeah,” said Elizabeth. “I think she deserves a treat, too, for winning the money!”

They walked a couple of blocks to a small pet store. “Dogs are welcome in here,” Elizabeth said. “I buy her treats here all the time. Come on in and see – they have a cookie bar for dogs. You pick out what you want and pay by the pound.”

José saw the sign over the cookie bar: \$8 per pound. Elizabeth opened bin after bin and picked out several different kinds of cookies and put them in a bag. Duchess looked excited – she knew what was coming! Those treats were for *her*! Her nose twitched as she tried to get a sniff, but she sat patiently.

Another girl was picking out treats for her dog, a little Jack Russell Terrier. The dog was jumping up and down, trying to snatch the treats from the girl’s hand. Panda looked up at José. “Good girl, Panda,” he said, and stroked her ears as she sat patiently.

The guy at the register weighed the cookies in Elizabeth’s bag and said, “Three quarters of a pound.”

How much did the cookies cost? _____

When Elizabeth and José left the store, they both burst out laughing. “Oh, my gosh,” Elizabeth said. “That little dog was so badly behaved!”

“I know!” agreed José. “I don’t think it deserved a treat!”

Elizabeth opened the bag and said, “Well, our patient pups *do* deserve a treat,” and she gave a cookie to both Duchess and Panda. “Thanks,” said José. “That’s very nice of you.”

Elizabeth closed up the bag and looked at Duchess. “These are for home,” she said. “This was a lot of fun,” she said to José. “Yeah, I’m glad we met,” he replied. “I’d like to walk our dogs together sometime. Would you be up for that?”

“That would be fun!” said Elizabeth. “I live right near the dog park.”

“Great,” José answered. “Let’s walk to your house, then. Maybe we could bring the dogs to the park on Friday?”

“Sure,” said Elizabeth.

“And the treats will be on me,” José said with a smile and a wink.