

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

The Puppy Bowl

- 1 Months before Puppy Bowl IX was televised, the stars of the show arrived in New York City, where the big event is filmed. There, in a film studio, 63 puppies, 21 kittens, 9 hedgehogs, and 6 hamsters participated in the 2013 Puppy Bowl. With their big eyes and clumsy ways, puppies are very cute to watch on a football field. Audiences agree. The Puppy Bowl has become an annual event, drawing as many as 12.4 million viewers.

Play by Play

- 2 The Puppy Bowl began in 2005 when the cable channel Animal Planet had a problem. Each year more than 100 million Americans stopped everything to watch the Super Bowl, the biggest football game of the year. This left few viewers to watch the shows on Animal Planet on the day of the Super Bowl. The cable channel decided to create a show that viewers would find interesting.



AP Photo/Stephen J. Boltano, FILE

- 3 Many people liked the idea of a Puppy Bowl. It is like a real football game in many ways. The Puppy Bowl is played in a stadium with footballs. However, the stadium is much smaller than a regular football stadium. In fact, it is closer to the size of a school classroom. And the footballs used in the Puppy Bowl aren't real footballs. They are chew toys of different shapes and sizes. Like a real football field, the Puppy Bowl stadium has field goals in the end zones, a green field that is marked with lines, and advertisements posted on the surrounding walls. Of course, there is a major difference between the Super Bowl and the Puppy Bowl. The Puppy Bowl is played by

puppies, not humans. But that's not all. The Puppy Bowl has an entertaining halftime show performed by kittens. For the 2013 show, hamsters operated a blimp camera, and hedgehogs were the cheerleaders.

Picking Puppy Players

- 4 Animal shelters throughout the country send in pictures of their puppies, hoping one will be chosen. Each puppy is photographed next to a soda can so that the judges can see its size. Puppies are typically between 8 and 16 weeks old, and each puppy is available for adoption. Petfinder.com, an organization that helps people find pets, picks the players based on cuteness and their ability to play well with others.
- 5 Once the puppies are chosen, they are flown to New York City and taken to a film studio. Many volunteers are waiting at the studio to welcome the puppies, kittens, and other animal participants in the Puppy Bowl.

Puppy Protection

- 6 At the studio, camera crews film the puppies and other animals in action. While the Puppy Bowl is being recorded, the puppies and other animals are well cared for by all the volunteers and crew members. In addition, a veterinarian examines each puppy before it goes on camera and gives medical care that might be needed during the game. A worker from the Humane Society supervises all play. The puppies are filmed for only 20 minutes at a time to make sure that they stay safe and enjoy themselves.
- 7 To make the game fair, the puppies are divided into groups so that they play with puppies their own size. Even though puppies do not know how to play football, they seem to have fun on the field. There are puppy tug-of-war contests, puppies tripping over their own feet, and puppies falling into the water bowl, as well as puppies that seem confused and simply sit on the field.



Which way do we go?

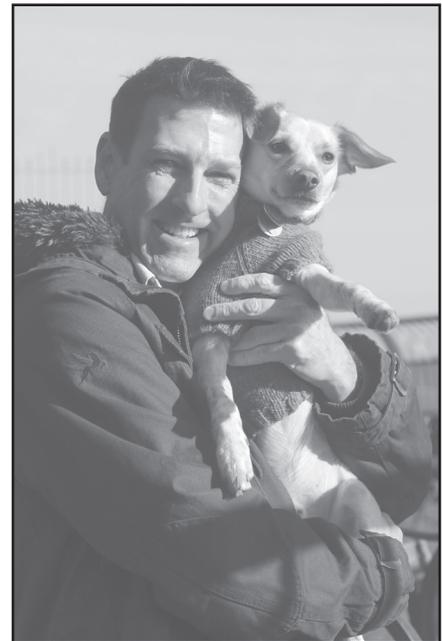
PRNewsFoto/Animal Planet

8 A referee watches the puppies during the game and stops the game when necessary. If a puppy drags a toy to the end of the field, the referee announces a touchdown. Volunteers cheer when they hear the news. A puppy that gets too playful on the field may have to take a break. A puppy that falls asleep gets a time-out. And when there is a "personal foul," a volunteer quickly grabs some paper towels to soak up the puddle!

9 The staff members at Animal Planet enjoy the company of the puppies until the camera crews have collected many hours of film. Then they review the film and select the cutest moments to share with viewers of the Puppy Bowl.

Everyone Wins

10 In addition to the cuteness and fun, the Puppy Bowl has a serious side. All the puppies, kittens, and other animals come from animal shelters. And by the end of the Puppy Bowl each year, all of them are adopted. But that's not all. Petfinder.com reports that the Puppy Bowl increases the overall number of adoptions nationwide. The Puppy Bowl is always a fun day with a happy ending for both animals and humans.



Fumble, the 2012 Puppy Bowl's Most Valuable Puppy, with His New Owner

AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

- 1** Which detail from the selection supports the idea that people enjoy watching the Puppy Bowl?
- A** Animals are filmed months before the Super Bowl takes place.
 - B** The Puppy Bowl is seen by as many as 12.4 million viewers every year.
 - C** Animal shelters throughout the country send pictures of animals.
 - D** The Puppy Bowl can be seen on the same day as the Super Bowl.
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- 2** The main purpose of this selection is to —
- F** compare football players with puppies
 - G** describe how puppies learned to play a human sport
 - H** persuade the reader to adopt a pet from an animal shelter
 - J** provide facts about a popular animal show
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- 3** Which sentence from the selection expresses the author’s opinion?
- A** *With their big eyes and clumsy ways, puppies are very cute to watch on a football field.*
 - B** *The cable channel decided to create a show that viewers would find interesting.*
 - C** *Of course, there is a major difference between the Super Bowl and the Puppy Bowl.*
 - D** *Petfinder.com reports that the Puppy Bowl increases the overall number of adoptions nationwide.*

4 What do all the Puppy Bowl participants have in common?

- F They are all the same breed.
 - G They are all the same size.
 - H They are all used to playing games.
 - J They are all available for adoption.
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5 Read the following information about the origin of the word supervise.

from the Latin *super-* + *vidēre*, meaning “to see”

This information helps the reader know that the word supervises in paragraph 6 means —

- A encourages
 - B judges
 - C determines
 - D watches
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6 The author organizes the information in paragraph 3 by —

- F explaining why a game played by puppies is better than the same game played by humans
- G listing the reasons a cable channel created a show with puppies
- H comparing the puppy football game with a real football game
- J showing all the ways that puppy football is entertaining to watch

- 7** One of the main goals of the Puppy Bowl is to —
- A** promote finding new homes for different kinds of pets
 - B** encourage the public to spend more time watching real football
 - C** encourage viewers to play games with their own pets
 - D** show that puppies can do many of the same things humans do
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- 8** Which section of the selection contains information about how veterinarians help with the Puppy Bowl?
- F** Play by Play
 - G** Picking Puppy Players
 - H** Puppy Protection
 - J** Everyone Wins
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- 9** What is the best summary of the selection?
- A** The Puppy Bowl gathers animals from across the country and films them for a show that airs on the cable channel Animal Planet. The 2013 show included puppies, kittens, hamsters, and hedgehogs playing a kind of football game.
 - B** The cable channel Animal Planet created the Puppy Bowl to air on the day of the Super Bowl. The show brings together animals from shelters across the country so they can participate in a football game. Viewers are encouraged to adopt the show participants.
 - C** When the cable channel Animal Planet realized that viewers were leaving the channel to watch the Super Bowl, a show was created to bring viewers back. The show is called the Puppy Bowl. It features puppies and other animals.
 - D** The Puppy Bowl is filmed in a studio for the cable channel Animal Planet. Puppies are filmed playing a version of football. Kittens, hamsters, and hedgehogs have also been featured on the show.