

by Evan Segalman

# Dogs' Ears

No two dogs' ears are alike.



# Prick or Upright ears

This type of ear was inherited from wolves. They are sharp, pointy, and stand upright.

Dogs with this type of ear are...

Siberian Huskies, German Shepherds, and Boston Terriers.





## Rose ears

The rose ear is a form of the prick ear and is common in Bulldogs, Greyhounds, and Chihuahuas.

# Pendant or Drop ears.



Dogs with this type of ear are Golden Retrievers, Bloodhounds, Cocker Spaniels, and Basset hounds.

Long and droopy **pendant** ears



See how long  
the Basset Hound's  
ears are?

# Cropped ears



Sadly sometimes people create prick ears by surgically altering drop ears.

Examples of dogs with surgically “cropped” ears are Doberman Pinschers (left), Boxers, and Great Danes.

# Button Down ears

Combination  
of the prick  
and pendant  
ears.

Upright but  
look how the  
tip folds over!





Another  
example of  
the **Button  
Down** ear

Chihuahua mix with ears that  
fold over!





You can  
barely even  
see his ears!

It's sometimes hard to  
tell what shape ears a  
dog has....

*A variety of ears in the dog run.*



Time to go play with a dozen ears!



# Essay.

I chose to research dogs' ears, because I love dogs and the way their faces look different depending on what shape ears they have. When I started the project, I hoped to learn how the different shapes affect a dog's hearing. As I researched the topic, I grew more and more interested in why some dogs' ears are surgically changed to a different shape and dogs' sensitivity to vibrations. But no matter what, no two dog's ears are alike.

The basic shape of dogs' ears is called the "prick" or upright ear," inherited from the wolf. The main feature of this type of ear is that it is sharp, pointed, and stands upright. For example, the Siberian husky and the Boston terrier (both shown in photos) have "prick" ears. Through breeding, some dogs have evolved so that they have variations of the "prick" ear. A French bulldog has rounded "prick" ears, and a corgis' and Chihuahuas' ears are big compared to their heads, so they are called "bat ears." Many dogs have "drop ears" or "pendant ears," such as the Basset hound, the Bloodhound, the Cocker Spaniel, and the Golden Retriever. Some dogs' ears are not "prick" or "drop" ears, but are a combination of the two. They stand upright but the tips fold over. You can see this shape in Pit Bulls, Jack Russell Terriers, and Collies. This shape is known as the "Button shape." Finally, the Greyhound, the Bulldogs, and the Chihuahua mix shown in the photos are examples of the "Rose" ear.

Sometimes "Prick" ears are created by surgery when "drop" ears are "cropped." This is commonly done in Great Danes, Doberman Pinschers, and Boxers. This type of ear is called a "cropped" ear not a "prick" ear. I think it's cruel to cut a dog's ears just to suit our ideas of what a dog should look like. It's usually done at three months old, which

seems all the more cruel because the puppies have to be in pain for no good reason.

All dogs have excellent hearing, but the ones with the best hearing are dogs with large “prick” ears, such as the Boston terrier, Chihuahuas, and the Husky. Dogs’ with “drop” ears don’t hear as well because their earflaps are in the way. Still, all dogs have great hearing and are sensitive to vibrations. They will be aware of earthquakes, days before humans become they are aware of any movement in the earth. Because of dogs’ excellent hearing, there are hearing dogs for deaf people. They are trained to hear a knock on the door or the doorbell, the phone ringing, an alarm or smoke alarm ringing, and then telling their master. Any dog can be trained to be a hearing dog, but the best dogs for this job are small and medium sized hunting dogs like spaniels, pointers, and settlers.

I learned a lot about dogs, their ear shapes, and their hearing. I love them all. My dog has silky drop ears and I love them. But they’re all great the “prick” ears of the Husky, the “Rose” ears of the Bulldogs, and the “Button” ears of the Jack Russell Terrier and Collie. They’re all beautiful and no shape is better than another. I hope one day we will stop cropping dogs’ ears, because it is unnecessary. Finally, I learned that all dogs have excellent hearing but the ones with “prick” ears are the most sensitive.