Measuring Rocco

A Book Share Inspired By

Measuring Penny

By Loreen Leedy
This is Rocco.
Rocco is new to our family and we wanted to learn more about him. We were inspired by Loreen Leddy’s book, *Measuring Penny*, to use Math to learn about Rocco.
First I needed a measuring tape.
Then I got some help from the best helper I know, my husband Chris.
Rocco was happy to get measured...

...as long as he got belly rubs first.
We measured Rocco’s neck. Because he is a Saluki mix, his neck is very long.

Rocco’s neck at measured at approximately 7 inches long and approximately 16 inches around.
Like most sighthound dog breeds, the width of Rocco’s head is smaller than the width of his neck. This makes it really easy for most collars to slip off. Rocco is super fast, so it’s very important for him to wear a color that keeps him safe. Knowing Rocco’s neck measurements helps us pick the collar that’s right for him. To stay safe Rocco wears a collar that two inches wide! It’s called a Martingale Collar.
Now let’s measure how tall Rocco is! From ground to shoulder, Rocco is about 24 1/2 inches tall.

The veterinarian says Rocco is an average height for his breed and age (he’s 2 and a half).
If you count Rocco’s nails, he has five nails on each foot (if you count his dewclaws*). Almost all of his nails are clear...but he has two nails on his right paw that are black! That means 80% of his nails are clear, and 20% of his nails are black!

2 nails divided by 10 nails = .2

.2 = 20% black nails

20—100 = 80

80 = 80% white nails

* Most dogs have four nails on each rear foot and five on their front feet. That extra nail on the upper, inner part of a dog’s foot is the **dewclaw**. Do you know a dog with a different number of nails? Have no fear, some dogs have dewclaws on their rear feet or even double dewclaws!
Rocco was adopted from a rescue. We wanted to learn more about him, so we gave him a DNA test. This is a pie chart showing the percentages of the different dog breeds that Rocco comes from. When percentages are shown on a pie chart, it easily see which percentages are greater. A pie chart is one of the ways we sometimes look at numbers.

The volunteers at the rescue told us they thought Rocco was a Saluki mix, and he is! Finding out that he is also a German Shepard was a little bit of a surprise.
This is a flow chart of what they think Rocco’s family tree might look like. This is another way of looking at the proportions of the dog breeds that Rocco comes from.
This is a map of Qatar, where Rocco is from. He is from a city called Doha. You can find Doha on this map by looking for the red dot with the star.

A map is another way to practice our math skills. A map shows us the locations of objects, their shapes, and their relation to each other.
Rocco was so tired after doing so much measuring, he turned himself into a oval and took a nap!
We’ve used math in many different ways to learn more about Rocco. We used a measuring tape, we read a map, made charts, we figured percentages...and Rocco even made a shape!

Thanks for learning more about Rocco with us! We think, however you measure it, Rocco is one awesome dog!