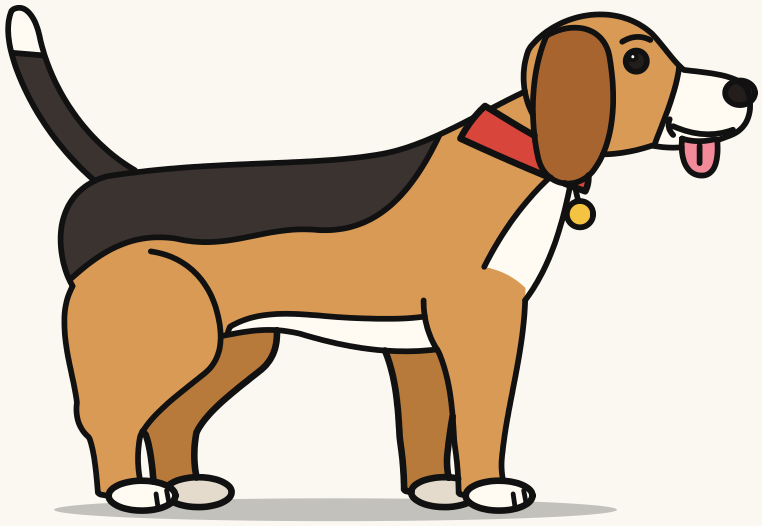
How to Draw a Dog

12 easy steps for beginners



What you'll need

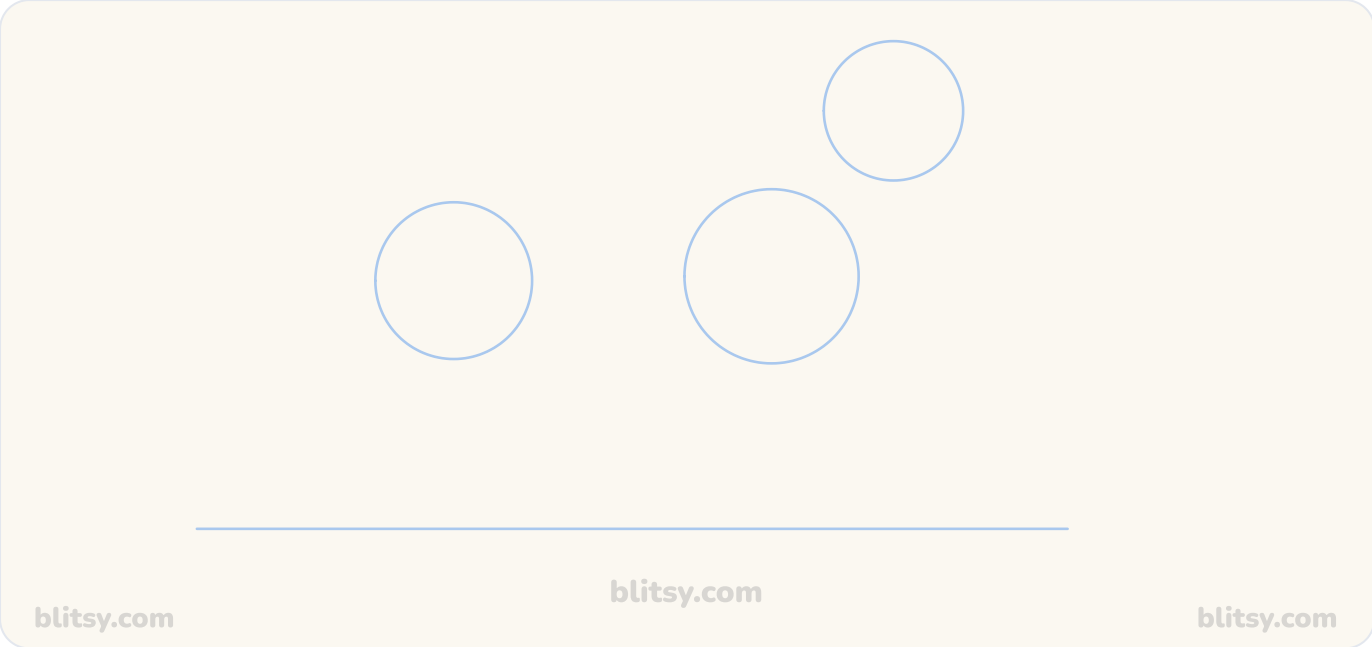
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper, landscape

How to use this guide

New lines for each step are shown in **blue**; lines you already drew are gray. Draw lightly first, then ink and erase near the end.

Read the full tutorial online →

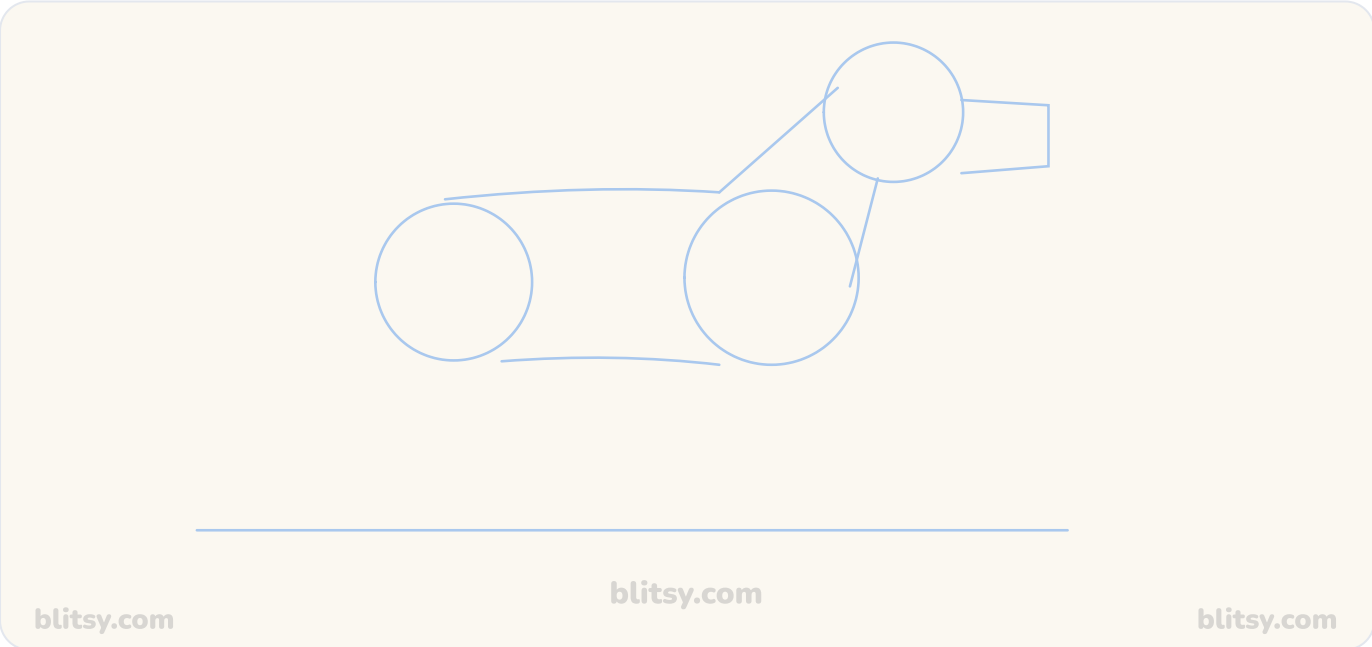
STEP 1 Draw a ground line and three circles



Draw a long ground line near the bottom of the page. Above it, sketch a hip circle on the left, a slightly bigger chest circle on the right, and a smaller head circle up and to the right of the chest. Leave about one circle of space between hip and chest. That gap sets the body length, so I check it before anything else.

💡 **Tip:** Hold the pencil far back from the tip. You'll press more lightly without even trying.

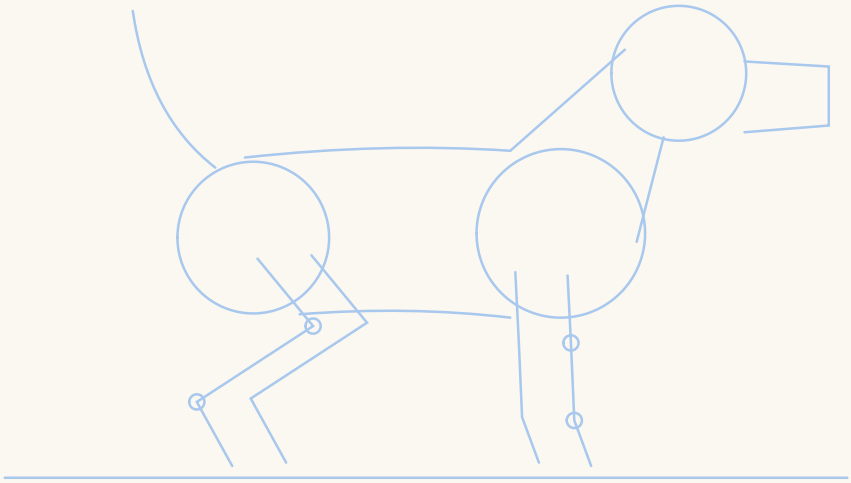
STEP 2 Join the circles and add a muzzle box



Connect the tops of the hip and chest circles with a nearly flat back line, and the bottoms with a belly line. Two lines from the chest up to the head make the neck. On the right of the head, add a short box. Beagles have a fairly long, square muzzle, and a box captures that better than a circle.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the back line almost straight. A dog's back only dips a little behind the shoulders.

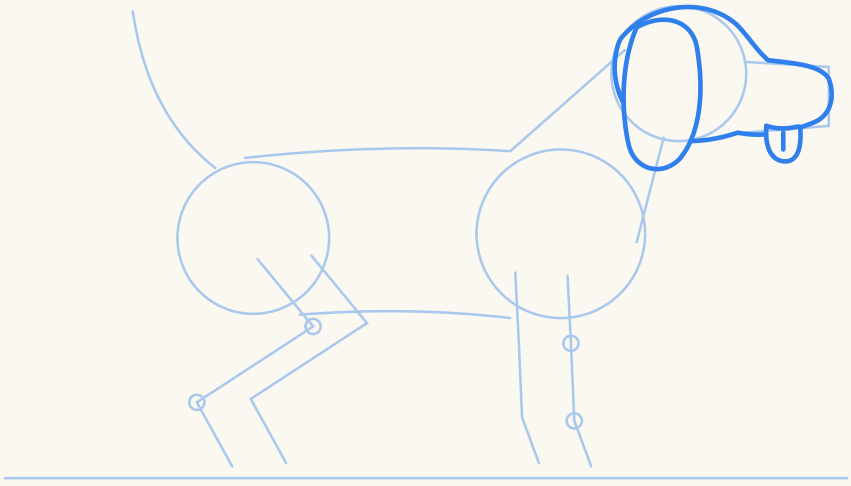
STEP 3 Add stick legs with joint dots



This step fixes most dog drawings. The front legs are almost straight lines down from the chest, with a dot for the elbow and one for the wrist. The back legs zigzag: forward to the knee, back and down to the hock, then straight down to the ground. Add a curved guide rising from the rump for the tail.

💡 **Tip:** Say it out loud as you draw the back leg: forward, back, down. It sticks.

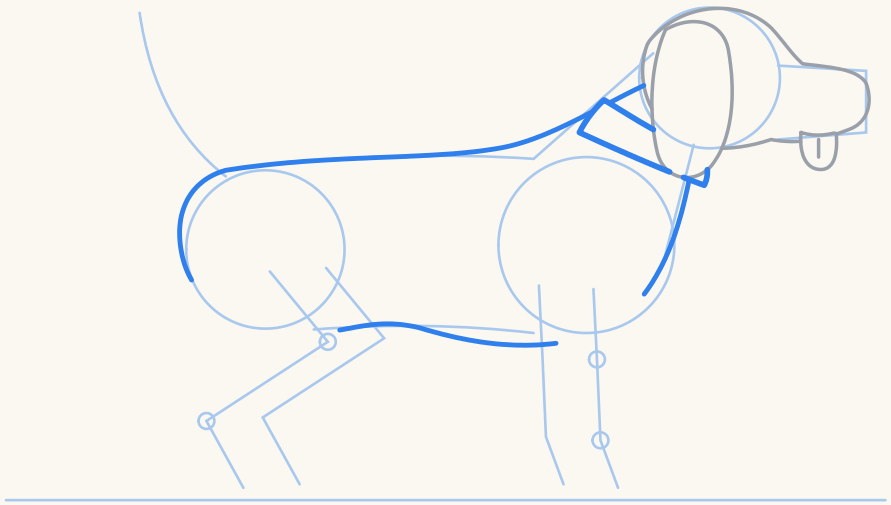
STEP 4 Shape the head and a floppy ear



Trace around the head circle and the muzzle box with one smooth line, dipping in at the forehead. Then draw a long ear hanging from the top of the head like a rounded leaf, reaching below the jaw. Under the muzzle, add a little U for the tongue. I draw the ear before the eye so I know how much space is left.

💡 **Tip:** Let the ear hang slightly past the chin. Short ears turn a beagle into a terrier.

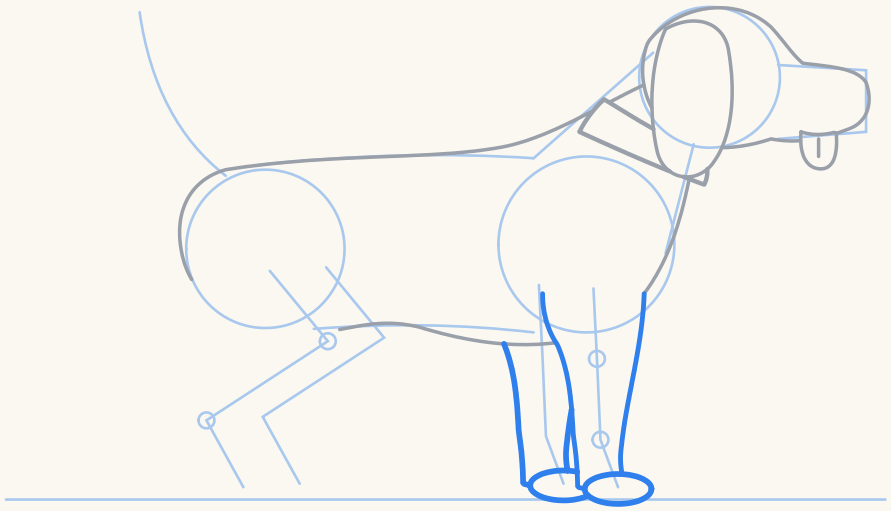
STEP 5 Outline the body with its collar



Go around the outside of the circles to make the body. Start at the back of the neck, follow the back line and round off the rump. On the chest side, let the chest bulge out in front. Draw a slanted band across the neck for the collar. Leave the belly line open where the legs will join it.

💡 **Tip:** The chest sits lower and rounder than the rump. Push that front curve forward.

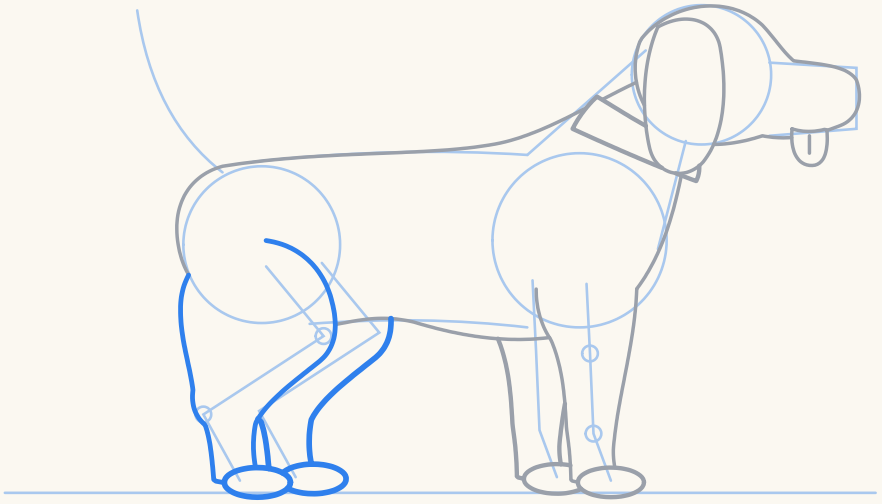
STEP 6 Draw the front legs and paws



Build each front leg around its stick: a tube a little thicker near the chest, with a small bump at the back for the elbow. Narrow it slightly at the wrist, then add an oval paw pointing forward. The far leg peeks out just behind the near one, so only its visible edges get drawn.

💡 **Tip:** Make both paws the same size, even though one leg is farther away. It reads better.

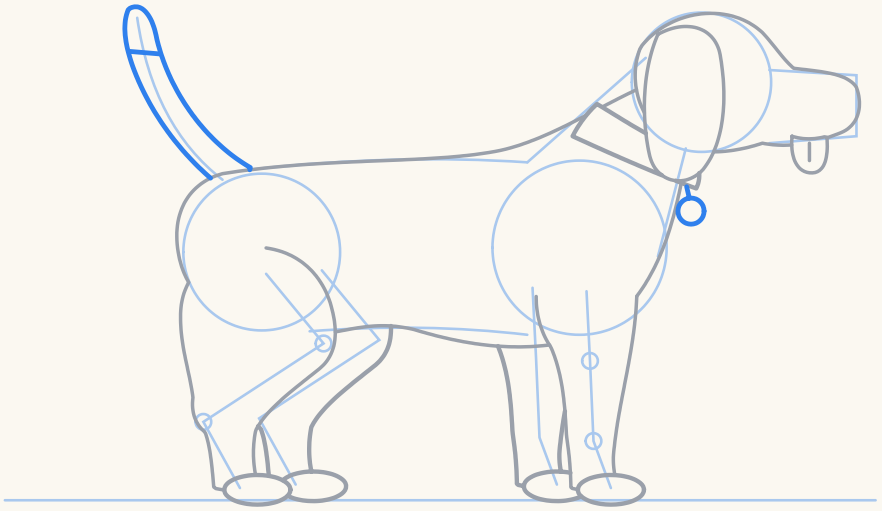
STEP 7 Add back legs with bent hocks



Back legs are where beginners struggle, so go slowly. Draw a big rounded thigh out of the hip, narrowing toward the knee at the front. From the knee, the leg slants backward to the hock, which sticks out like a heel. Below it, the lower leg drops straight down to an oval paw. Repeat for the far leg, partly hidden.

💡 **Tip:** If the leg looks stiff, push the hock a touch further back.

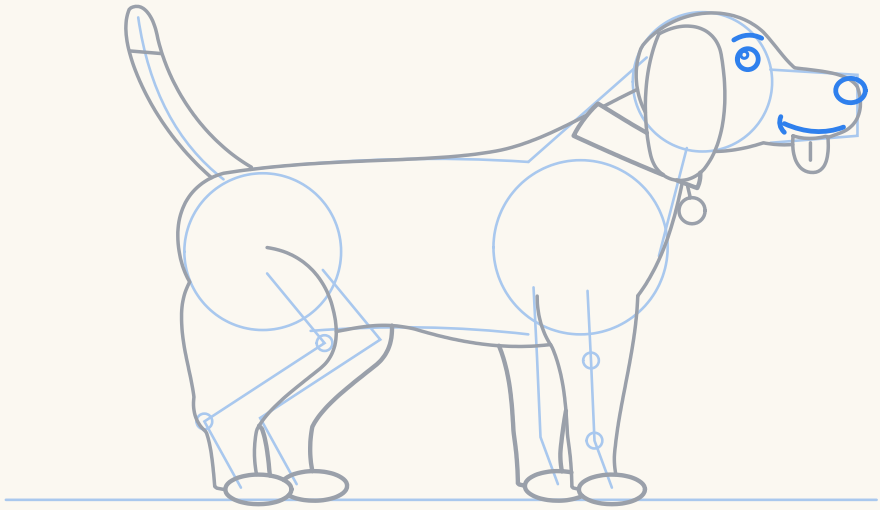
STEP 8 Draw a wagging tail and the tag



Follow the tail guide with a long tapering shape that curves up to a rounded tip. Add a short line across near the top, since many beagles have a white tail tip. Then hang a small round tag from the collar on a tiny ring. A raised tail tells everyone this dog is happy.

💡 **Tip:** Start the tail thick where it joins the rump and let it thin out as it rises.

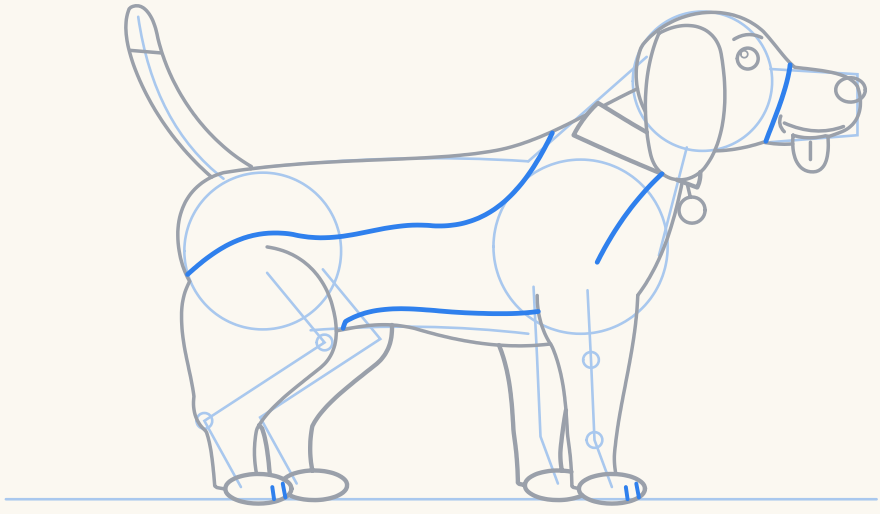
STEP 9 Give him an eye, a nose and a smile



Place a round eye just above the middle of the head, close to where the muzzle starts, with a curved brow and a shine dot. At the tip of the muzzle, draw an oval nose that overlaps the outline a little. Finish with a smile line from under the nose back toward the cheek, ending in a small hook.

💡 **Tip:** Put the eye nearer the muzzle than the ear. Too far back and the face looks flat.

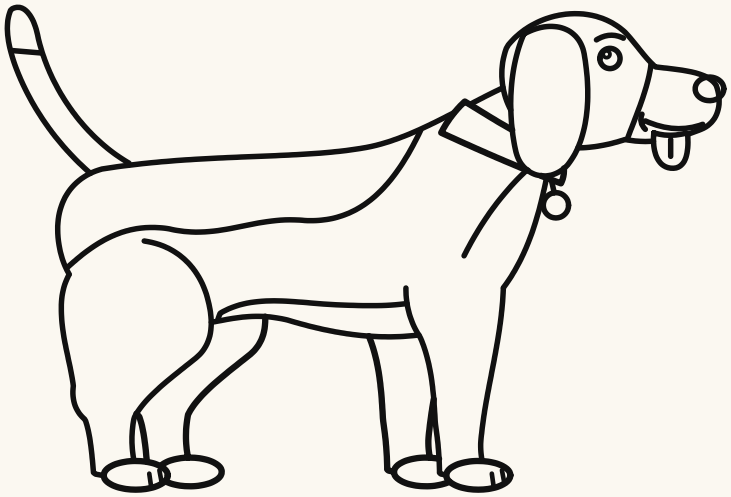
STEP 10 Mark the coat pattern and toes



A wavy line from the rump to the shoulders marks the black saddle. Another curve runs down the chest and along the belly for the white fur, and a short line across the muzzle shows where the white face begins. Add two tiny toe lines on each near paw. These few lines turn a plain dog into a beagle.

💡 **Tip:** Wobble the saddle line gently. Real fur markings are never perfectly smooth.

STEP 11 Ink the outline and erase the guides

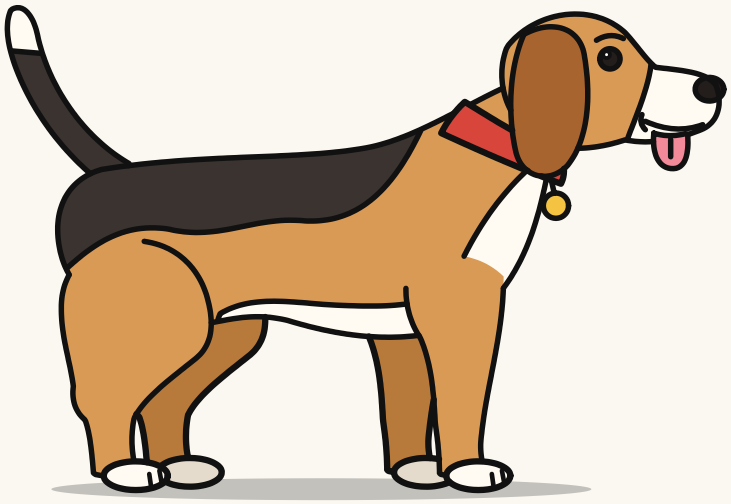


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Trace every keeper line with your black marker, working from head to tail so your hand stays off fresh ink. Skip the circles, the box and the stick legs. Let the ink dry, then erase the pencil underneath.

💡 **Tip:** Ink the long back line in one slow stroke. Stopping halfway leaves a visible bump.

STEP 12 Color your dog



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Light brown covers the head, the body and the near legs. Use black for the saddle and tail, leaving the tail tip white. Keep the chest, belly and muzzle white or pale cream, along with the paws. The ear gets darker brown, and the two far legs a shade darker than the near ones, which pushes them back. Add a red collar, yellow tag, pink tongue and black nose.

💡 **Tip:** Color the black saddle last among the big areas, so dark crayon doesn't smudge into the tan.