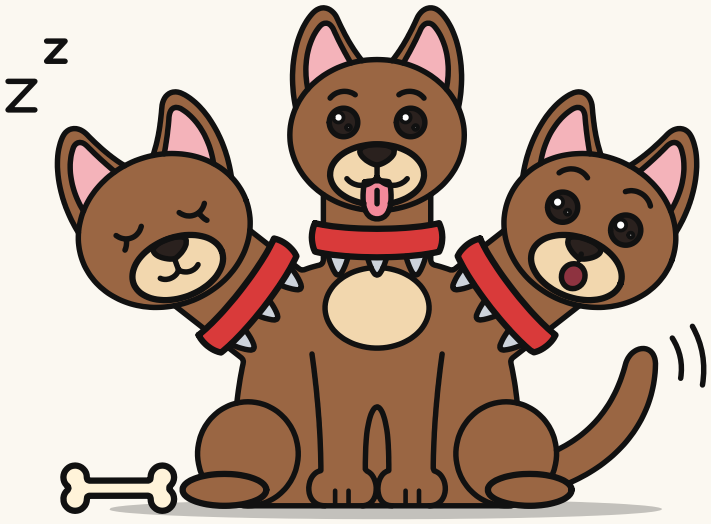
How to Draw Cerberus

12 easy steps for beginners



blitsy.com

What you'll need

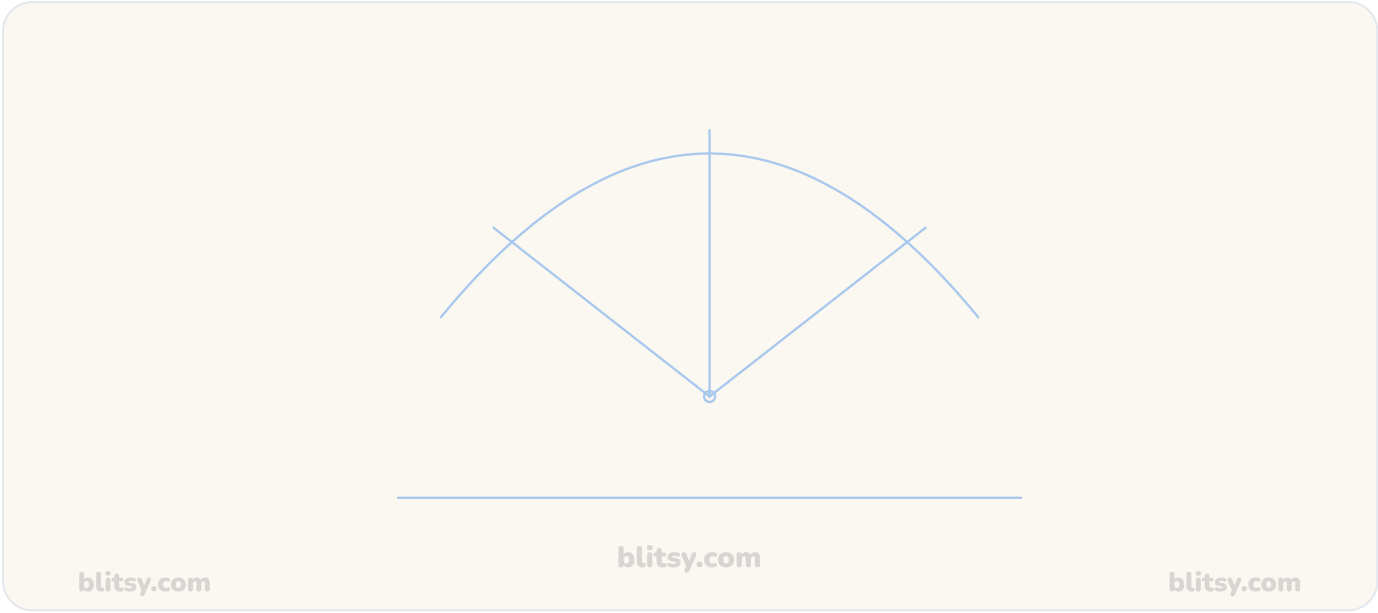
- A pencil
- An eraser
- A black marker or fineliner
- Colored pencils or crayons
- Plain paper

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 →

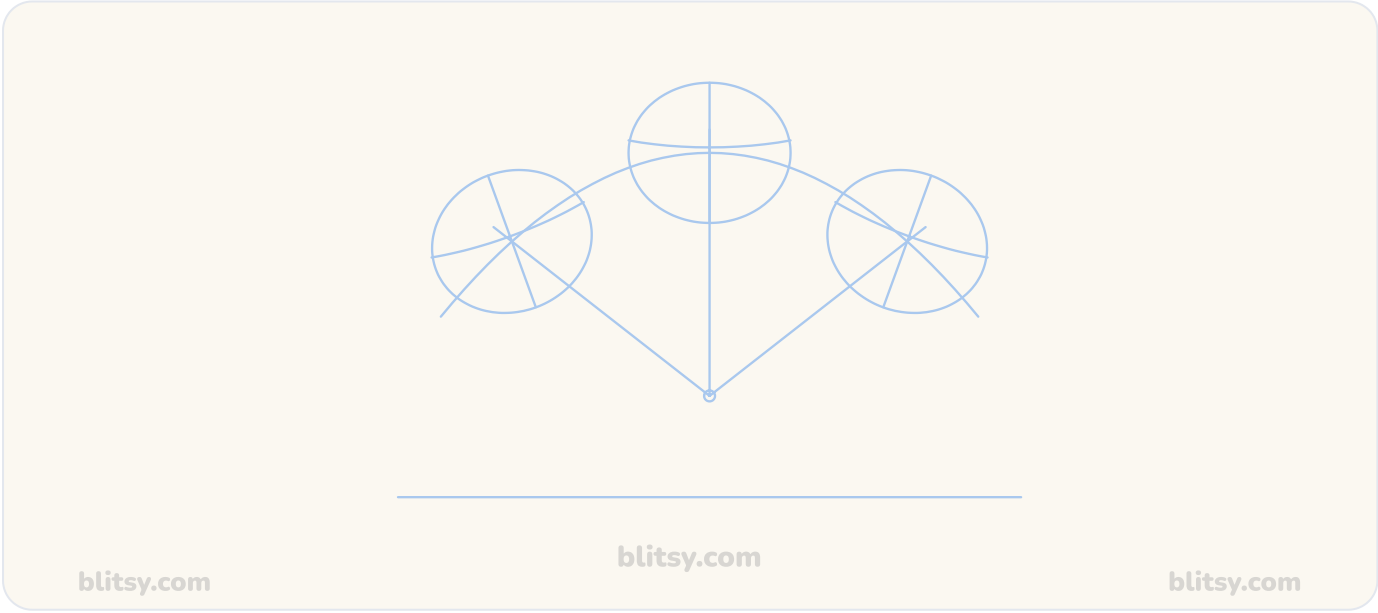
STEP 1 Draw fan lines and a head arc



Start with a light ground line near the bottom of the page. A little above the middle, put a small dot: that's the chest. From the dot, draw three straight lines like the ribs of an open fan, one straight up and one leaning out to each side. Then sketch a wide arch, like a rainbow, that crosses all three lines.

💡 **Tip:** Keep the two side lines at the same slant. If one leans more, that head will look like it's falling off.

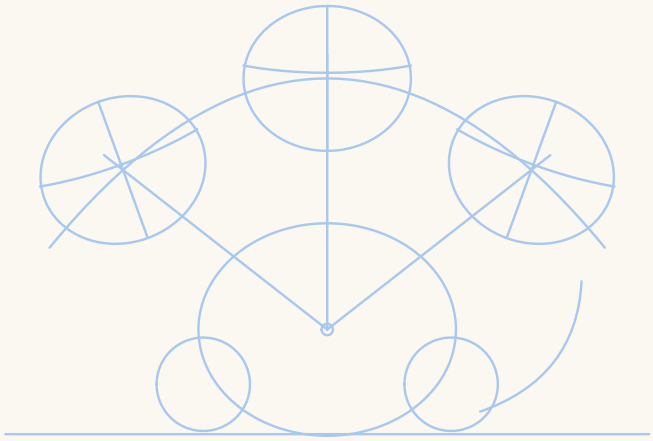
STEP 2 Place three head circles on the arc



Where each fan line meets the arch, draw an oval for a head. All three are the same size, and the gaps between them should be about a third of a head wide. Add cross lines in each oval. On the side heads, tilt the cross lines outward a little, because those heads lean away from the middle one.

💡 **Tip:** Heads touching each other? Slide the side ovals farther down the arch instead of making them smaller.

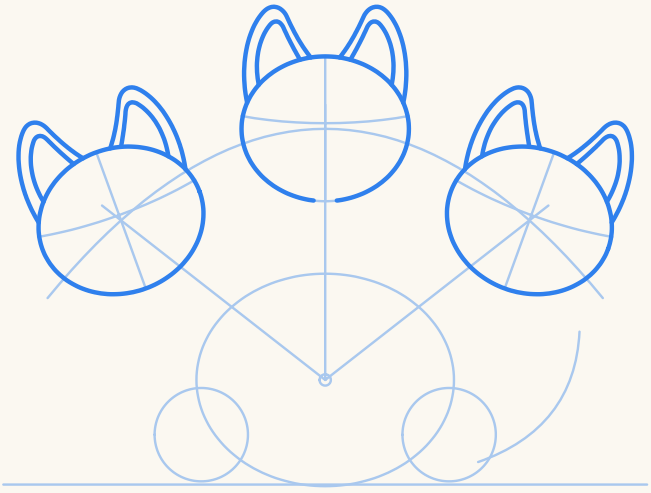
STEP 3 Add guides for the body, hips and tail



Under the heads, draw a big round oval for the body that sits on the ground line. Its top should cover the fan dot. At the bottom corners, add two circles for the back hips, and sketch one curved line rising on the right for the tail. I keep it wide on purpose, since a thin body under three heads looks top heavy.

💡 **Tip:** Let the hip circles poke out past the body oval a little. That bulge is what makes the pup look like it's sitting.

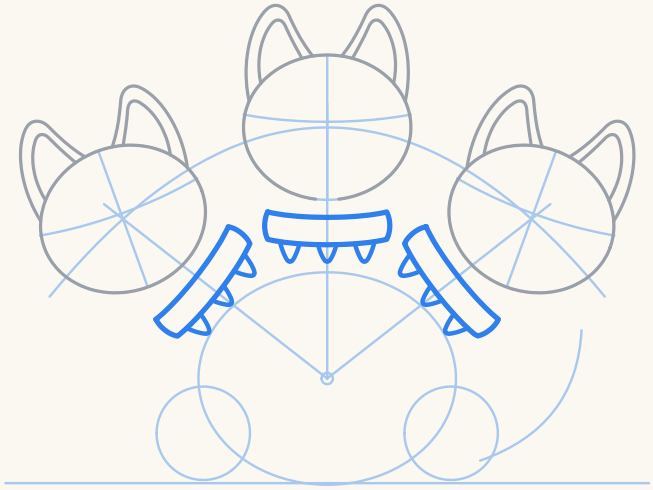
STEP 4 Outline the heads and pointy ears



Trace each head oval with a firmer line. On top of every head, draw two pointy ears with rounded tips and a smaller ear shape inside each one. The ears on the side heads tilt along with the head. Leave a tiny gap at the bottom of the middle head. A tongue will hang over that spot later.

💡 **Tip:** Round off the ear tips. Sharp points make the dog look fierce, and we want friendly.

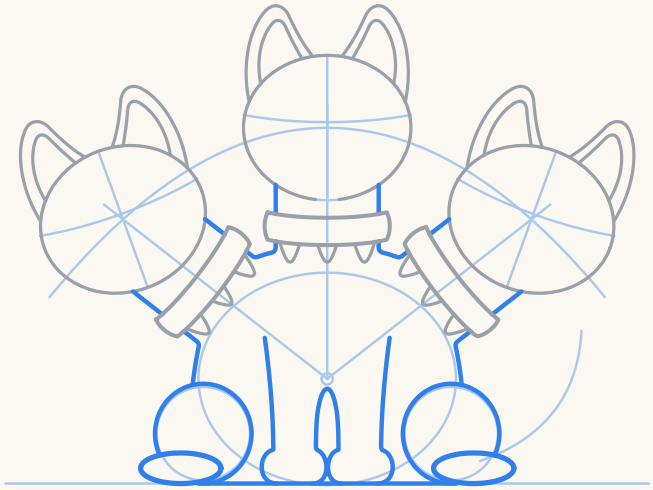
STEP 5 Draw three spiked collars



Just under each head, draw a short curved band across the fan line. That's a collar. The side collars follow the slant of their fan lines, so they look tilted. Hang three small rounded spikes from the bottom edge of each band. Collars come before necks so the neck lines can just stop at them.

💡 **Tip:** Space the three spikes evenly by drawing the middle one first.

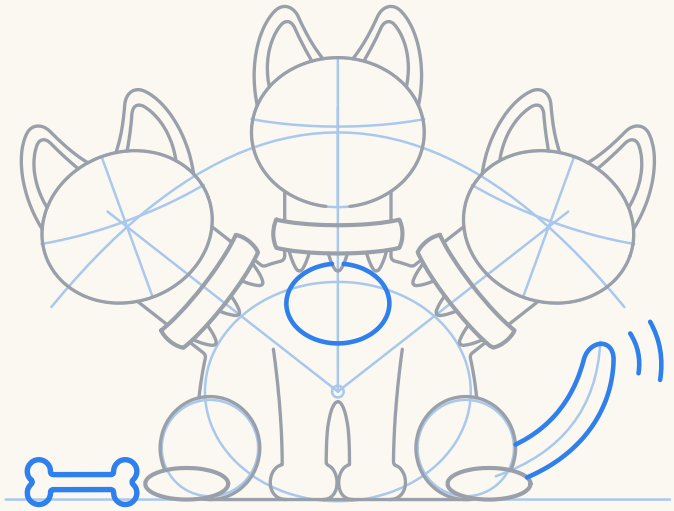
STEP 6 Connect the necks, body and legs



Now join everything. Run two short lines from each head down to its collar, then from the collars into the shoulders. Curve the outline of the body down around the hips to the ground. Draw the round hips, a flat oval foot in front of each one, and two front legs with chunky paws in the middle. Keep the necks short and thick.

💡 **Tip:** Most beginners leave a dip between the necks that's too deep. A shallow little curve reads better.

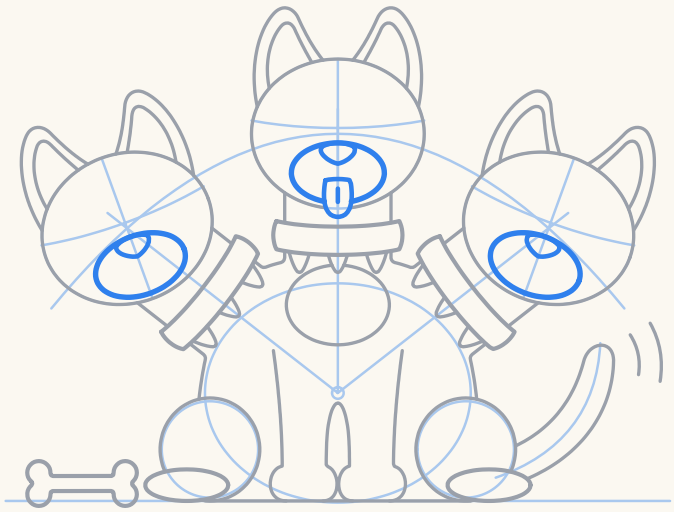
STEP 7 Add the tail, chest patch and a bone



Follow the tail guide from behind the right hip and make a thick tail curving up, closed with a round tip. Two short curved lines beside the tip show that it's wagging. On the chest, between the collars and the legs, draw an oval patch for lighter fur. Down by the left foot, a bone: one short bar with two bumps at each end.

💡 **Tip:** Draw the bone flat on the ground line so it looks dropped, not floating.

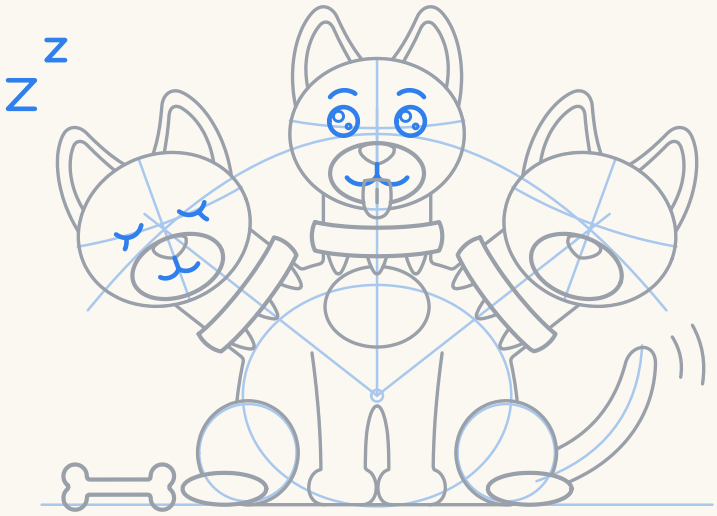
STEP 8 Draw the muzzles, the noses and a tongue



Each face gets a wide oval muzzle on the lower half of its head, tilted with that head. Near the top of every muzzle, put a rounded triangle for the nose. For the middle head, add a U-shaped tongue that hangs down from the mouth, past the chin, through the gap you left in step 4.

💡 **Tip:** Make all three noses the same size. It's one dog, even with three faces.

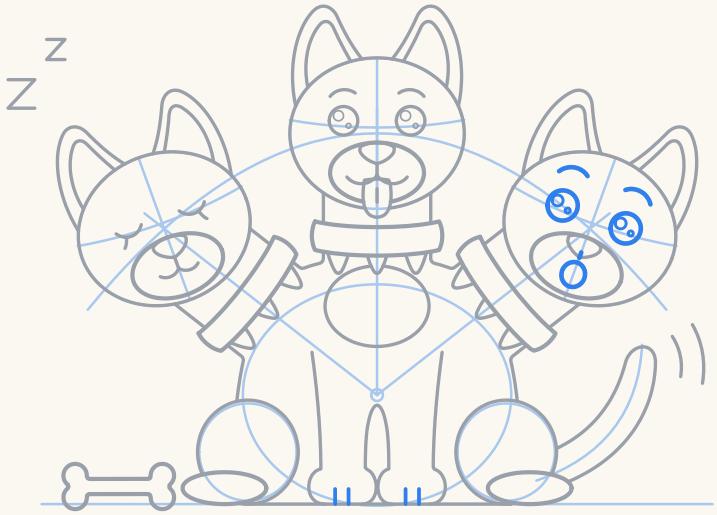
STEP 9 Give the left and middle heads a face



The left head is the sleepy one. Its eyes are two curves bending down, each with one little lash, and its mouth is a soft, small smile. A few zigzag Z letters float above it. The middle head is happy: two round eyes with shine dots, raised brows and a wide smile on each side of the tongue.

💡 **Tip:** Put the shine dots in the same corner of every eye, as if one lamp lights the whole dog.

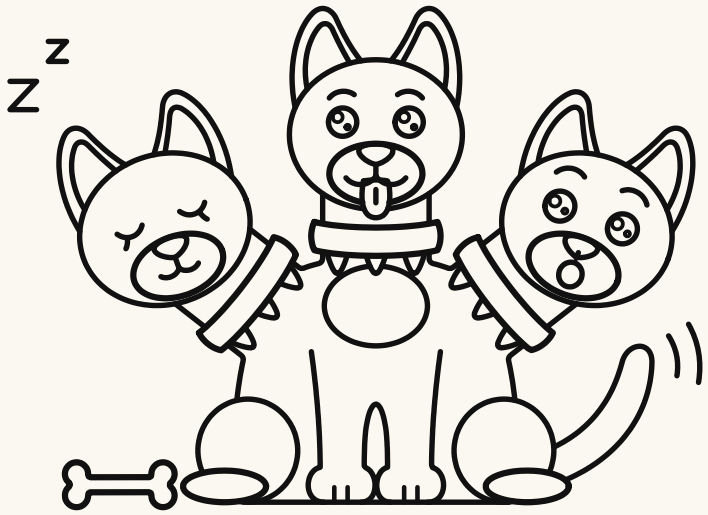
STEP 10 Finish the curious head and the toes



The right head has just heard a noise. Give it slightly bigger round eyes with shines, brows lifted high, and a small round open mouth with a tiny tongue at the bottom, like a short woof. Then draw two little lines on each front paw for toes.

💡 **Tip:** Keep that open mouth small. A big dark mouth turns a curious pup into a scary one.

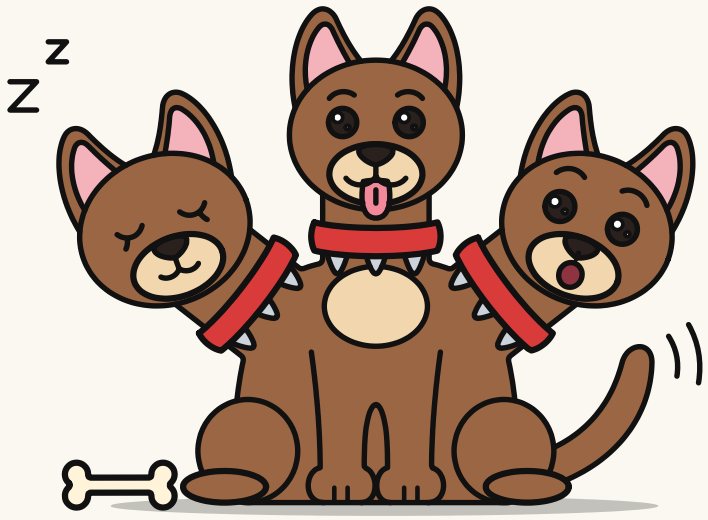
STEP 11 Ink the lines and erase the guides



Go over every keeper line with the black marker. I usually start with the faces while my hand is still fresh, then do the collars and the body. Skip the fan lines, the arch and the guide ovals. Once the ink is fully dry, erase all the pencil, including the bit of chin line under the tongue.

💡 **Tip:** Turn the page as you ink the tilted heads, so your hand always pulls the line toward you.

STEP 12 Color your Cerberus



Brown covers all the fur, from the ear tips to the tail. Use light tan for the three muzzles and the chest patch. Then pink inside the ears and on the tongues, red on the collars and gray on the spikes. The bone is cream. Leave the eye shines white, and add a soft gray shadow under the pup.

💡 **Tip:** Color the light tan patches before the brown fur, so the darker pencil never drags into them.