

Do It

1. Create an additional property (`$dog_gender`) in the Dog class. Create a set method (`set_dog_gender`). Determine if a valid value (Male, Female) has been passed into the set method. You can use the following code or develop your own version to check for valid information.

```
($value == 'Male' || $value == 'Female') ? $this->dog_gender =
$value : $error_message = FALSE;
```

2. Go to php.net and search for a method that will allow the checking of any case of “Male” or “Female” from #1. Update the conditional statement to allow any version (Male, MALE, male, Female, FEMALE, female, and so on). Hint: The characters in `$value` can be changed to all uppercase or all lowercase using the `strtoupper` or `strtolower` methods. Then check the string as all uppercase (MALE, FEMALE) or all lowercase (male, female) characters.

Get Methods

In our previous examples, you created a `get_properties` method that returned multiple properties at the same time. This is a valid and useful method. However, it is common to have a **get method** to match each set method. This provides both write (set method) and read (get method) capabilities for the properties in a method. In some situations you may want to only provide a get method without a set method (making the property read-only). We could (although rarely done) provide a set method without a get method (making the property write-only).

Get methods are actually much easier to code than set methods. No verification of data is necessary because you are reading the data and not updating it.

```
function get_dog_name()
{
return $this->dog_name;
}
```

All that is necessary in the get method is the return statement, which returns the value in the property without the user of the object having direct access to the property.

Example 3-10. Dog class with set and get methods—`dog.php`

```
<?php
class Dog
{
// ----- Properties -----
private $dog_weight = 0;
private $dog_breed = "no breed";
private $dog_color = "no color";
private $dog_name = "no name";
}
```