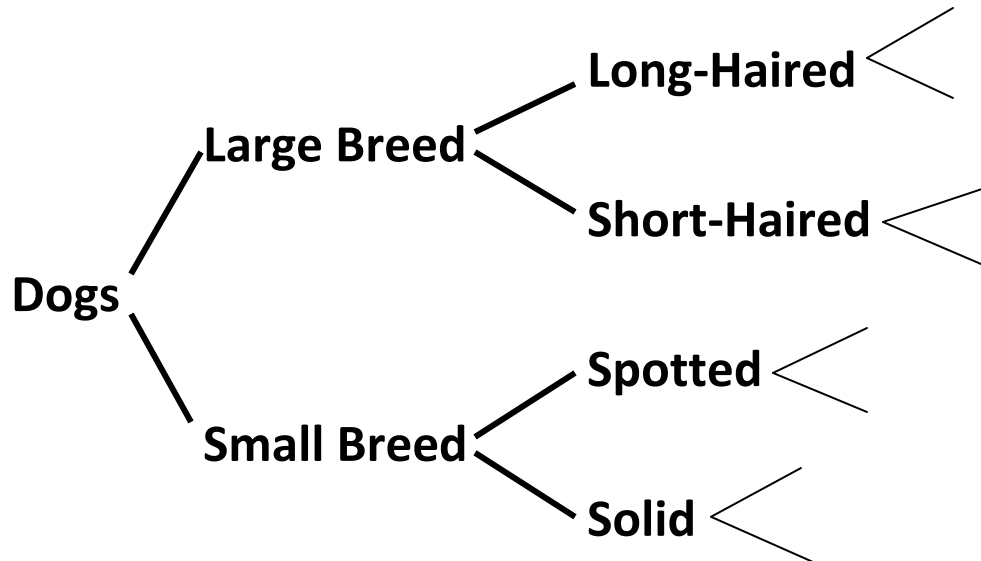


This activity was written by Candace Walkington.

## Sorting Geometric Solids

A **Dichotomous Key** classifies objects into repeated groups of two. For instance, you might classify all dogs as being a large breed or being a small breed. Then you could classify all the large breed dogs as being long haired or short haired, and all the small breed dogs as being spotted or solid color. Your key might look like the below:



Today your group will be making a dichotomous key to classify the different 3-dimensional solids you've been given – many of them are everyday objects. You may not classify these shapes based on their size or color; you must instead classify them based on their properties. Think back to what we learned about the properties of different polygons.

Your goal is to make a dichotomous key that sorts your objects until there is one single object in each group. Then you'll give your key and your set of objects to another group, and see if that group can sort the objects using your key. So make sure your key is clear and easy to understand!

