



Print Style Sheets

This appendix provides the following information:

- ⦿ Applying print styles
- ⦿ Creating print styles

The print media type (described in Appendix C) lets you add style sheet rules specifically for the printed page. Users may want to print your page for a variety of reasons, and complex Web designs often do not print well. Link colors, background images, font sizes and other Web features do not translate well to the printed page. You can control how your printed pages look with a print style sheet.

Applying Print Styles

A print style sheet can be an external style sheet file, or the rules can be embedded in the head section of a document. In the following code, the `<link>` element specifies the media type print and points to a style sheet named `print-styles.css`. The rules in this style sheet will apply to the printed version of the Web page.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print"
href="print_styles.css" />
```

Print style rules can also be embedded in the style section of the document using the `@media` keyword. Notice the additional external curly brackets that contain all of the style rules.

```
<style type="text/css">
@media print {
  body {
    font-size: 12pt;
    color: #000;}
}
</style>
```

The external style sheet method of applying print rules is the simplest way to manage print styles. If you have an external style sheet for both screen and print, only one will apply based on the destination media. If you have internal styles and use the `<link>` element only for a print style sheet, you may need to use the `!important` keyword (described in Chapter 4) to override style rules. For example, if your internal style sheet contains rules that specify a serif font-family, and you want to override those styles for printing, you would use the `!important` keyword in the external print style sheet as shown below:

```
body {font-family: serif !important;}
```

Creating Print Styles

With print style rules you can change or remove any element on your Web page. You can control fonts, colors, borders, and backgrounds. You can also hide elements that are not relevant on the printed page, such as navigation links.

Specifying Fonts and Color

Standard font sizes for printed text are different than what you would specify onscreen and text prints best in black. Two simple style rules accomplish this:

```
body {font-size: 12pt;
      color: #000
    }
```

Specifying Background Colors

You may also want to set background-colors for the page to white for better legibility when printing. This rule would also apply to the body selector.

```
body {font-size: 12pt;
      color: #000
      background-color: white;
    }
```

Removing Elements

You can turn off navigation or other elements, such as search forms, that are not relevant on a printed page. For example, in the dogworld.com project page (see Figure 12-6) the Search tool and Sponsored Links section in the right column are not necessary in print. Figure D-1 shows the print preview of the Web page in Internet Explorer. Notice that by default browsers omit background images in the printed version. Figure D-2 shows the print results after print style rules have been applied.

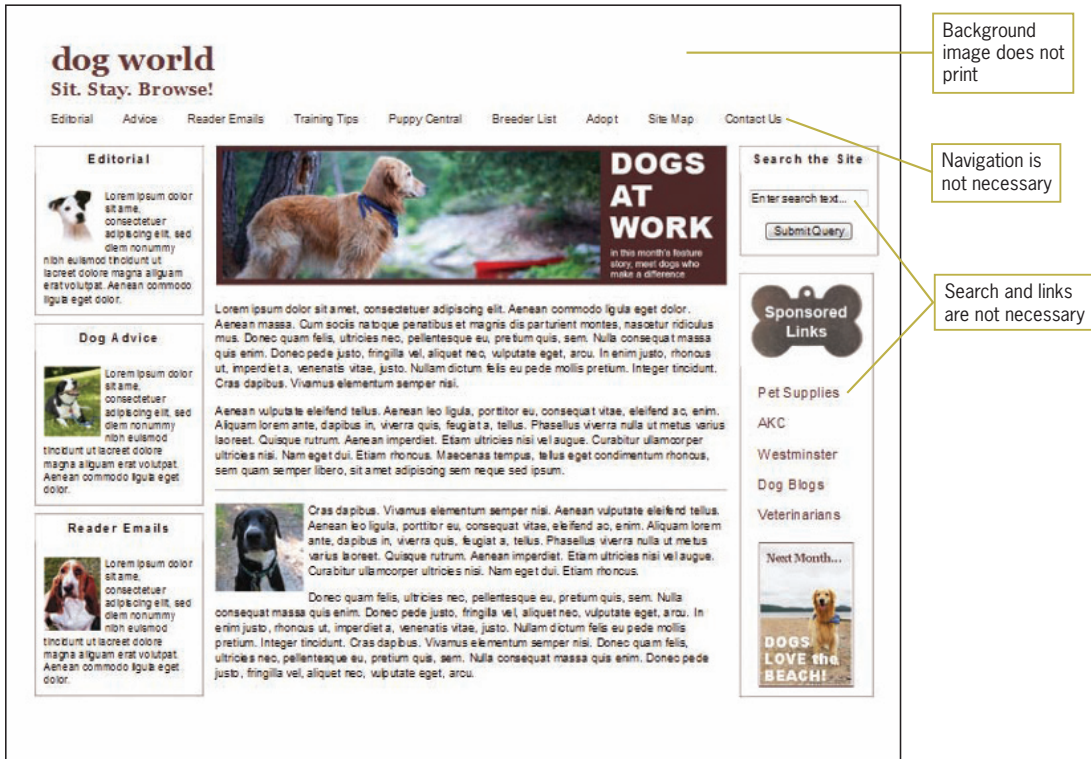


Figure D-1 Print Preview version of Dogworld page

To turn off the navigation links, set display to *none* for the division element that contains the links. In the Dogworld code, the navigation links are contained in the `` element with an id of *navlist*. The following style rule hides the navigation list.

```
#navlist {
    display: none;
}
```

You can also hide the entire right column, containing the search and links content, with one style rule that hides the entire right column containing both items.

```
div#rightcol {
    display: none;
}
```



Figure D-2 Print style sheet removes unwanted content from printed version of the Web page