The Good Life

Each of five neighborhood dogs (Saber, Ginger, Nutmeg, Pepper, and Bear) is enjoying one of the following activities: getting its ears scratched, playing catch, taking a nap, burying a chew toy, and going for a walk.

* Pepper is either playing catch or burying a chew toy.
* Neither Ginger nor Saber nor Bear is on a walk.
* One of the dogs named after a spice is getting its ears scratched.
* A dog not named for a spice is playing catch.
* Bear is getting some exercise.

Can you figure out what each pooch is doing?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Ears scratched | Playing catch | Taking a nap | Burying chew toy | Going for a walk |
| Saber | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ginger | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nutmeg | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Pepper | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Bear | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ginger | Ears scratched |
| Bear | Playing catch |
| Saber | Taking a nap |
| Pepper | Burying chew toy |
| Nutmeg | Going for a walk |

Solution

1. Pepper is either playing catch or burying a chew toy but since another rule is “a dog not named for a spice is playing catch”, he is therefore burying a chew toy.
2. There are 3 activities that constitute exercise- playing catch, burying chew toy and going for a walk. Since Bear is getting some exercise but is not on a walk or burying a chew toy, he is thus playing catch.
3. Since Ginger, Saber, Bear and Pepper are not on a walk, that leaves Nutmeg who is going for a walk.
4. Ginger is the only dog left named after a spice, so thus Ginger is getting its ears scratched.
5. That leaves Saber with the only option of taking a nap.