

# Dog Care

## Merit Badge Workbook

Merit badges are earned by doing: reading the pamphlet, practicing the skills, and showing your counselor what you have learned.
This workbook gives you a place to organize your notes and track your progress along the way.
**Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbook.**
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
Use the space under each requirement to note what you have done and what you want to talk about, not to write out full answers.
When a requirement says discuss, show, tell, explain, or demonstrate, that is what you must do.
No one may add to or subtract from the official requirements found on scouting.org (Guide to Advancement 7.0.4.8).
Scouting America last updated this badge's requirements page on December 1, 2025.
*Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.*

SCAN FOR MORE FREE WORKBOOKS
ScoutSmarts

Scout's name: _____ Unit: _____ Date started: _____

Counselor's name: _____ Phone no.: _____ Email: _____

*Links marked "Scouting America resources" are the ones Scouting America shares on its official badge page.*
*This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.*

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**1.** Do the following:

**(a)** Briefly discuss the historical origin and domestication of the dog.

**Scouting America resources:** A Brief History of Dogs (video) · The Origin of Dogs (video)

**Where dogs came from, and how they were domesticated**

**(b)** Describe some common characteristics of the dogs that make up each of the seven major dog groups.

**Scouting America resources:** Dog Breed Groups (video) · 7 Different Groups of Basic Dog Breeds (website)

**The seven major dog groups**

| Group | Common characteristics of its dogs |
|---|---|
| | |
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**(c)** Tell some specific characteristics of seven breeds of dogs (one from each major group), OR give a short history of one breed.

**Scouting America resources:** 7 Groups of Dog Breeds! (video)

**Seven breeds, one from each group**

| Group | Breed | Specific characteristics |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
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**OR a short history of one breed (breed name and its history)**

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

**2.** Point out on a dog or a sketch at least 10 body parts. Give the correct name of each one.

**Scouting America resources:** Basic Dog Anatomy (video)

Dog I used (if not a sketch) _____ Date _____

**Sketch of a dog (draw here or attach)**

**Ten body parts**

| Body part (correct name) | Where it is on the dog |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
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| | |

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*Ten body parts (continued)*

| Body part (correct name) | Where it is on the dog |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

**3.** Do the following:

**(a)** Explain the importance of house-training, obedience training, and socialization training for your dog.

**Scouting America resources:** How Important is Dog Training and Socialization? (video)

| Training | Why it matters for my dog |
|---|---|
| House-training | |
| Obedience training | |
| Socialization training | |

**(b)** Explain what "responsible pet ownership" means.

**Scouting America resources:** Pet Protector - Responsible Pet Ownership (video)

**What responsible pet ownership means**

**(c)** Explain what issues (including temperament) must be considered when deciding on what breed of dog to get as a family pet.

**Scouting America resources:** How to Pick the Right Dog for You! (video) · Top 10 Dogs for First Time Owners (video)

**Issues to consider when picking a breed for a family pet (including temperament)**

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

**4.** For two months, keep and care for your dog. Maintain a log of your activities during this period that includes these items: feeding schedule, types of food used, amount fed, exercise periods, training schedule, a weekly body weight record, grooming and bathing schedules, veterinary care, if necessary, and costs. Also include a brief description of the type of housing/shelter arrangements you have for your dog.

**Scouting America resources:** How to Keep Track of Pet Care (video)

My dog's name _____ Start date _____ End date _____

**Feeding and weight log**

| Week | Feeding schedule | Types of food | Amount fed | Body weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Week 1 | | | | |
| Week 2 | | | | |
| Week 3 | | | | |
| Week 4 | | | | |

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*Feeding and weight log (continued)*

| Week | Feeding schedule | Types of food | Amount fed | Body weight |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Week 5 | | | | |
| Week 6 | | | | |
| Week 7 | | | | |
| Week 8 | | | | |
| Week 9 | | | | |

**Exercise, training, grooming and vet care log**

| Week | Exercise periods | Training schedule | Grooming and bathing | Veterinary care (if needed) | Costs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Week 1 | | | | | |
| Week 2 | | | | | |
| Week 3 | | | | | |
| Week 4 | | | | | |
| Week 5 | | | | | |
| Week 6 | | | | | |
| Week 7 | | | | | |
| Week 8 | | | | | |
| Week 9 | | | | | |

Total costs

**My dog's housing and shelter arrangements**

Requirement 4 completed on counselor initials

**5.** Explain the correct way to obedience train a dog and what equipment you would need. Show with your dog any three of these commands: "come," "sit," "down," "heel," "stay," "fetch," "get it," and "drop it."

**Scouting America resources:** 10 Most Basic Commands Every Dog Owner Should Know (video)
How To Teach Your Dog the Basics (video)

**The correct way to obedience train a dog**

**Equipment I would need**

Date I showed three commands _____ Shown to _____

- ☐ "come"
- ☐ "sit"
- ☐ "down"
- ☐ "heel"
- ☐ "stay"
- ☐ "fetch"
- ☐ "get it"
- ☐ "drop it"

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

**6.** Do the following:

**(a)** Discuss the proper vaccination schedule for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood.

**Scouting America resources:** Puppy Vaccinations 101: What, When, and Why (video)

**Vaccination schedule for a dog in my area**

| Age | Vaccine | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**(b)** Discuss the control methods for preventing fleas, ticks, heartworms, and intestinal parasites (worms) for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood.

**Scouting America resources:** How to Treat Fleas, Ticks & Worms in Dogs (video)

| Parasite | Control methods from puppyhood through adulthood |
|---|---|
| Fleas | |
| Ticks | |
| Heartworms | |
| Intestinal parasites (worms) | |

**(c)** Explain the importance of dental care and tooth brushing to your pet's health.

**Scouting America resources:** Dental Health Important for Your Pet Dogs (video)

**Why dental care and tooth brushing matter**

**(d)** Discuss the benefits of grooming your dog's coat and nails on a regular basis.

**Scouting America resources:** Everything You Need to Know About Dog Grooming (video)

| Grooming | Benefits of doing it regularly |
|---|---|
| Coat | |
| Nails | |

**(e)** Discuss with your counselor any seasonal conditions (like hot summers, cold winters, or extreme humidity) where you live that need to be considered for your dog.

**Scouting America resources:** Hot Weather Tips for Dogs! (video) · Winter Weather - Pet Safety Tips (video)

**Seasonal conditions where I live, and what they mean for my dog**

**(f)** Discuss with your counselor the considerations and advantages of spaying or neutering your dog.

**Scouting America resources:** Spaying and Neutering Pets: Myths Debunked & Health Benefits Explained (video)
To Neuter or Not? (video)

**Considerations and advantages of spaying or neutering**

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

**7.** Do the following:

**(a)** Explain precautions to take in handling a hurt dog.

**Scouting America resources:** How to Be Safe When Handling a Sick or Injured Dog (video)

**Precautions when handling a hurt dog**

**(b)** Show how to put on an emergency muzzle.

**Scouting America resources:** How Do I Safely Muzzle a Pet in an Emergency? (video)

Date _____ Shown to _____

**(c)** Explain how to treat wounds. Explain first aid for a dog bite.

**Scouting America resources:** First Aid for Dog Bites (video)

**How to treat wounds**

**First aid for a dog bite**

**(d)** Show how to put on a simple dressing and bandage the foot, body, or head of your dog.

**Scouting America resources:** Pet First Aid: How to Bandage Your Pet's Paw in Case of Emergency (video)

What I bandaged (foot, body, or head) _____ Date _____ Shown to _____

**(e)** Explain what to do if a dog is hit by a car.

**Scouting America resources:** What to Do to Help a Dog Hit by a Car (video)

**What to do if a dog is hit by a car**

**(f)** List the things needed in every dog owner's first-aid kit.

**Scouting America resources:** DIY Dog First Aid Kit - Basics and Beyond (video) · What to Put in a Dog First Aid Kit for Hiking (video)

**My dog first-aid kit**

| Item | Item |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
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| | |
| | |

**(g)** Tell the dangers of home treatment of a serious ailment.

**Scouting America resources:** 8 Risks of Treating Your Pet (website) · Dangers of Dr. Google (website)

**Dangers of treating a serious ailment at home**

**(h)** Briefly discuss the cause and method of spread, the signs and symptoms and the methods of prevention of rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and heartworms in dogs.

**Scouting America resources:** Rabies Information (video) · Parvo Information (video)
Disease Risks for Dogs in Social Settings (website)

| Disease | Cause and how it spreads | Signs and symptoms | Prevention |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rabies | | | |
| Parvovirus | | | |
| Distemper | | | |
| Heartworms | | | |

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

**8.** Visit a veterinary hospital or an animal shelter and give a report about your visit to your counselor.

**Scouting America resources:** Small Animal Hospital Virtual Tour (video) · What is an Animal Shelter (video)

Veterinary hospital or animal shelter I visited _____ Date _____

**My report: what I saw and learned**

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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**9.** Know the laws and ordinances involving dogs that are in force in your community.

**Scouting America resources:** Michigan's Animal Control Laws (video)

**Dog laws and ordinances in my community**

| Law or ordinance | What it requires |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
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| | |

Where I found them

Requirement 9 completed on counselor initials

**10.** Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in working with dogs. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

**Scouting America resources:** What Is the Difference Between Dog Training Certification Programs? | Animal Care Jobs (video) Is Vet School Right for You? (video) · Careers in Dogs - Skills Needed in Careers With Dogs (website) Becoming a Pet Groomer (video)

**Three careers working with dogs**

| Career | Skills and knowledge it uses |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

The career I picked

**What I researched**

| Topic | What I found |
|---|---|
| Training | |
| Education | |
| Certification requirements | |
| Experience | |
| Expenses | |
| Prospects for employment | |
| Starting salary | |

*What I researched (continued)*

| Topic | What I found |
|---|---|
| Advancement opportunities | |
| Career goals | |

**Would I be interested in this career? Why or why not**

☐ **(b)** Identify how you might use the skills and knowledge in working with dogs to pursue a personal hobby and/or healthy lifestyle. Research the additional training required, expenses, and affiliation with organizations that would help you maximize the enjoyment and benefit you might gain from it. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and share what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursued this.

**Scouting America resources:** 9 Dog-Friendly Hobbies To Strengthen Your Connection With Your Pup (website) · Dog Carving (video) Puppy Raising for the Blind (website)

My hobby or healthy lifestyle idea

**What I researched**

| Topic | What I found |
|---|---|
| Additional training required | |
| Expenses | |
| Affiliation with organizations | |

**My short-term goals**

**My long-term goals**

Requirement 10 completed on counselor initials

## Counselor sign-off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This line is for your own records.

Counselor's signature Date completed

## Official Scouting America resources

**Scouting America resources:** Dog Care merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Dog Care merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) All merit badges

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
Spot an error or a requirement change? Tell me at scoutsmarts.com/contact.
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