

Veterinary Medicine

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 31, 2025.
Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.

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. Discuss with your counselor the roles a veterinarian plays in the following:

(a) Companion or small animal medicine, and equine medicine
Scouting America resources: Equine Veterinarian | Future Jobs L Explore a Career as a Horse Doctor (video)
A Day in the Life of a Vet | If You See It, You Can Be It (video)

(b) Food animal or large animal medicine
Scouting America resources: Working the Land: Large Animal Veterinarian (video) · Cattle Caretakers: Large Animal Veterinarian (video)

(c) Exotic animal medicine
Scouting America resources: Caring for Exotic Animals (website/video) · A Day in the Life of an Exotic Bird Veterinarian (video)

(d) Marine animal medicine (mammal and fish)
Scouting America resources: Why Science? Marine Animal Veterinarian (video)

(e) Poultry medicine

Scouting America resources: VetsOnCall - Us Chicken Farms Are Humane + Family-Run, Vets Show (video)

(f) Wildlife medicine and aquaculture medicine

Scouting America resources: A Career in Aquatic Animal Medicine (video) · How Does a Wildlife Veterinarian Do It?! (video)

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Discuss with your counselor the roles a veterinarian plays in the following:

(a) Public health medicine and zoonotic disease surveillance and control

Scouting America resources: Career Connections: Public Health Veterinarian (video)

(b) The military

Scouting America resources: Cool Jobs: Army Veterinarian (video)

(c) Food safety and inspection

Scouting America resources: USFDA Public Health Veterinarian (video)

(d) Laboratory animal medicine and research

Scouting America resources: Laboratory Animal Veterinarian (video)

(e) Teaching and government

Scouting America resources: Veterinary Medicine Teacher Overview (website) · Veterinarian for Working Dogs - Government (video)

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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3. Describe the training required to become a veterinarian. Where is the veterinary medical college in your state or nearest to you? Describe the prerequisites for applying to veterinary school.

Scouting America resources: How Long Does It Take to Become a Veterinarian and Board Certified? (video)
Accredited Veterinary Colleges (website)

The training required to become a veterinarian

Veterinary medical college in or nearest my state _____ Where it is _____

Prerequisites for applying to veterinary school

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Tell your counselor what a registered veterinary technician (R.V.T.) or animal health technician (A.H.T.) is. Describe the training required to become an R.V.T. or A.H.T. Where is the school or training facility for R.V.T. or A.H.T. in your state or nearest to you? Describe the role an R.V.T. or A.H.T. would play in assisting a veterinarian working in three of the practice types listed in requirement 1.

Scouting America resources: What Is an RVT? (video) · How To Become a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) (video)
Registered Animal Health Technician (video)

What an R.V.T. or A.H.T. is

R.V.T. or A.H.T. school in or nearest my state _____ Where it is _____

The training required to become an R.V.T. or A.H.T.

How an R.V.T. or A.H.T. assists a veterinarian in three practice types from requirement 1

Practice type	The role the R.V.T. or A.H.T. plays

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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5. Discuss with your counselor the role a veterinarian plays in the human-animal bond.

Scouting America resources: The Center for the Human-Animal Bond (video)

The role a veterinarian plays in the human-animal bond

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Visit a veterinary clinic, hospital, or veterinary referral teaching hospital that does work in one of the practices listed in requirement 1. Spend as much time as you can observing the veterinarians and their staff. Prepare a presentation on what you observed and learned at the facility and share with your counselor.

Clinic or hospital I visited _____ Date _____

Practice type from requirement 1 _____

What I observed and learned (notes for my presentation)

☐ **(b)** Spend as much time as possible with a veterinarian who works in one of the fields listed in requirement 2. Learn what special training beyond veterinary medical school may have been required for that position. Learn about any special or unusual activities required of this position. Prepare a presentation and share what you have learned about this field of veterinary medicine with your counselor. Include how this field serves the needs of the general public.

Veterinarian I spent time with _____ Date _____

Field from requirement 2 _____

Special training beyond veterinary medical school

Special or unusual activities of this position

How this field serves the needs of the general public (notes for my presentation)

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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7. Select one career from any of the lists in requirements 1 or 2. Discuss the following with your counselor:

Scouting America resources: How To Become a Veterinarian (video) · The Many Career Paths in Veterinary Medicine (video)

The career I selected

(a) Why would one choose this particular career field?

(b) What would you like about this job?

(c) What would be the biggest challenges in doing this job?

(d) What to you has been the most surprising aspect of this job?

(e) What continuing education requirements are required to maintain certification for this job?

Requirement 7 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: Veterinary Medicine merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Veterinary Medicine merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
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