



Wolf Den Meeting 13

Pets
Elective 14.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ If possible, invite a veterinarian or other person with knowledge of pets (could be a community animal control officer or similar official, a pet groomer, or a parent with an interest in pets) to discuss pets and **Elective 14b** and **14d** with the Scouts. If none of the Scouts are allergic to animals (or if you make arrangements to deal with any allergies), perhaps the guest could bring a pet to the meeting.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
 - A suitable book about pets, such as *The Market Square Dog* by James Herriot (ISBN 0-312-06567-1).

Before the Meeting

- ▶ Make final preparations with assistance from any assistant den leader or other parent helper, den chief, and/or denner. Organize the space (seating, flags, advancement charts, activity materials, handouts, etc.). If you're snacking, organize space for that and the cleanup.

Gathering

- ▶ Have a gathering activity (games, puzzles, other) that will keep Scouts interested and busy and that others may join as they arrive. If the den desires, serve a healthy snack during this time.
- ▶ Collect dues, record attendance and any advancement completed at home (a good job for an assistant den leader). Assign parents to meeting roles and hand out meeting plan to each.

Opening

- ▶ Conduct a flag ceremony, indoor (**Achievement 2b**) or outdoor (**Achievement 2f**). Options include:
 - Gather in a line, circle, or square:
 - Pledge of Allegiance; have the Scout leading the ceremony tell what the Pledge means (**Achievement 2a**)
 - Cub Scout Promise or Law of the Pack
 - lead patriotic song.
 - Rotate leadership of flag ceremonies so each boy has a turn at every role (**Achievement 2b**).

Business Items

- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or events, as needed.

Activities

- ▶ **Elective 14: Pets:**
 - **Elective 14b** ("Know what to do when you meet a strange dog.")
 - **Elective 14c** ("Read a book about a pet and tell about it at a den meeting.")
 - **Elective 14d** ("Tell what is meant by rabid. Name some animals that can have rabies. Tell what you should do if you see a dog or wild animal that is behaving strangely. Tell what you should do if you find a dead animal.")
 - If you've been able to arrange a guest, be sure to confirm how long they will speak about their job or interest, and let them know the requirements if they are to lead those portions of the meeting.
 - Ideally, the guest can conduct most of the requirements discussion (they may or may not lead the "tell about a book" portion) if you prepare them for the requirement.
 - Otherwise, the den leader or a parent interested in pets can conduct this discussion.
- ▶ If Scouts have not read a book about a pet, do **Elective 14c** together ("Read a book about a pet and tell about it at a den meeting."):
 - Read a book about pets as a den.
 - Starting with the denner, have each boy read two pages and pass the book to the next boy.
- ▶ For fun, sing the song "Rags," found in the *Cub Scout Songbook*.

Want More Fun Activities?

With sufficient parental assistance, make this a show-and-tell pet day:

- ▶ Have Scouts (or selected Scouts) and parents bring their pets (under control/restraint) to this meeting.
- ▶ Be sure to confirm in advance who will come, and with what pet, and how they will be controlled, so you don't have conflict between pets. You may want to schedule a rotation of pets.
- ▶ Have Scouts present their pets: what it is, its name, how long it has lived with the family, where it lives in the wild (if applicable), what it eats, what it does during the day, how much it sleeps, etc. The Scout should describe how they take care of them (this will satisfy **Elective 14a**, "Take care of a pet").

Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed at this meeting; thank hosts, guests, and helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony: Retire the colors (fold and return the flag) or have a den leader's minute with a Living Circle, or the Law of the Pack and den yell (or other ceremony).
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.

After the Meeting

- ▶ If you've changed the sequence of den meetings, double-check to make sure you will still advance your boys appropriately and check with the Cubmaster to make sure you stay coordinated with the pack.
- ▶ Refreshments: If appropriate
- ▶ Cleanup: Recruit enough help to do a good job. Scouts always leave an area as clean, or cleaner, than they found it.

