

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# DOG CARE



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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

1. Do the following:
  - a. Briefly discuss the historical origin and domestication of the dog.
  - b. Describe some common characteristics of the dogs that make up each of the seven major dog groups.
  - c. Tell some specific characteristics of seven breeds of dogs (one from each major group), OR give a short history of one breed.
2. Point out on a dog or a sketch at least 10 body parts. Give the correct name of each one.
3. Do the following:
  - a. Explain the importance of house-training, obedience training, and socialization training for your dog.
  - b. Explain 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.
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.
5. Explain the correct way to obedience train a dog and what equipment you would need. Show with your dog

\*The activities used to fulfill the requirements for the Dog Care merit badge may not be used to help fulfill requirements for other merit badges.

any three of these commands: “come,” “sit,” “down,” “heel,” “stay,” “fetch” or “get it,” and “drop it.”

6. Do the following:

- a. Discuss the proper vaccination schedule for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood.
- b. Discuss the control methods for preventing fleas, ticks, heartworms, and intestinal parasites (worms) for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood.
- c. Explain the importance of dental care and tooth brushing to your pet’s health.
- d. Discuss the benefits of grooming your dog’s coat and nails on a regular basis.
- 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.
- f. Discuss with your counselor the considerations and advantages of spaying or neutering your dog.

7. Do the following:

- a. Explain precautions to take in handling a hurt dog.
- b. Show how to put on an emergency muzzle.
- c. Explain how to treat wounds. Explain 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.
- e. Explain what to do if a dog is hit by a car.
- f. List the things needed in every dog owner’s first-aid kit.
- g. Tell the dangers of home treatment of a serious ailment.
- 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.

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

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

10. Learn about three career opportunities for working with dogs. Pick one and find out about the education, training, and experience required for this career, and discuss this with your counselor. Tell why this profession interests you.

# Dog Care Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Boy Scout Journal; Animal Science, Bird Study, Fish and Wildlife Management, Horsemanship, Mammal Study, Pets, Reptile and Amphibian Study, and Veterinary Medicine* merit badge pamphlets

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website (with your parent's permission) at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

The American Kennel Club. *The Complete Dog Book 19th Edition Revised*. John Wiley, 1997.

Burnford, Sheila. *The Incredible Journey*. Lareleaf, 1996.

Coppinger, Raymond, and Lorna Coppinger. *Dogs*. Scribner, 2001.

Fogle, Bruce. *The New Encyclopedia of the Dog*. DK Publishing, 2000.

Hausman, Gerald, and Loretta Hausman. *The Mythology of Dogs*. St. Martin's, 1998.

Kjelgaard, Jim. *Snow Dog*. Bantam Skylark, 1983.

London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild*. Prentice Hall, 1995.

Mammato, Bobbie. *Pet First Aid: Cats and Dogs*. American National Red Cross and the Humane Society of the United States, 1997.

Serpell, James, editor. *The Domestic Dog*. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Sheldon, Jennifer W. *Wild Dogs: The Natural History of the Nondomestic Canidae*. Academic Press, 1997.

Terhune, Albert Payson. *Best Loved Dog Stories of Albert Payson Terhune*. Amerson, 1987.

Thurston, Mary Elizabeth. *The Lost History of the Canine Race*. Avon, 1997.

Wells, Rosemary. *Lassie Come-Home*. Henry Holt, 1998.

Zink, M. Christine. *Dog Health & Nutrition for Dummies*. John Wiley, 2001.

## Periodicals

### AKC Family Dog

Telephone: 212-696-8200

Website: <http://www.akc.org/pubs/familydog>

### **Dog Fancy**

Website: [http://www.dogchannel.com/dfdc\\_portal.aspx](http://www.dogchannel.com/dfdc_portal.aspx)

### **Dog World**

Website: <http://www.dogchannel.com/dog-magazines/dogworld>

## **Organizations and Websites**

### **American Humane**

63 Inverness Drive East  
Englewood, CO 80112  
Telephone: 303-792-9900  
Website:

<http://www.americanhumane.org>

### **The American Kennel Club**

Telephone: 212-696-8200  
Website: <http://www.akc.org>

### **American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

424 East 92nd St.  
New York, NY 10128-6804  
Telephone: 212-876-7700

Website: <http://www.aspca.org>

### **Dog Breed Info Center**

Website: <http://www.dogbreedinfo.com>

### **Dog Owner's Guide**

Website: <http://www.canismajor.com/dog>

### **Dogpark.com**

Website: <http://www.dogpark.com>

### **The Humane Society of the United States**

2100 L St., NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Telephone: 202-452-1100  
Website: <http://www.hsus.org>

### **The Kennel Club**

Website: <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk>

### **Pet of the Day**

Website: <http://www.petoftheday.com>

### **SPAY/USA**

25 Davis Ave.  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Toll-free telephone: 800-248-7729  
Website: <http://www.spayusa.org>

### **"Woof! It's a Dog's Life"**

Website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/woof>

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