

MERIT BADGE SERIES



PETS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
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PETS



"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Requirements

1. Present evidence that you have cared for a pet for four months. Get approval before you start.*
2. Write in 200 words or more about the care, feeding, and housing of your pet. Tell some interesting facts about it. Tell why you have this kind of pet. Give local laws, if any, relating to the pet you keep.
3. Show that you have read a book or pamphlet, approved by your counselor, about your kind of pet. Discuss with your counselor what you have learned from what you read.
4. Do any ONE of the following:
 - a. Show your pet in a pet show.
 - b. Start a friend raising a pet like yours. Help your friend get a good start.
 - c. Train a pet in three or more tricks or special abilities.

*Work done for other merit badges cannot be used for this requirement.

Resources for Pets

Scouting Literature

Animal Science, Bird Study, Dog Care, Fish and Wildlife Management, Horsemanship, Mammal Study, Reptile and Amphibian Study, and Veterinary Medicine merit badge pamphlets

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

Books

Davis, Radford G., DVM, MPH, ed. *Caring for Family Pets: Choosing and Keeping Our Companion Animals Healthy*. Praeger, 2011.

Stein, Sara. *Great Pets!: An Extraordinary Guide to Usual and Unusual Family Pets*. Storey Publishing, LLC, 2003.

BIRDS

Athan, Mattie Sue. *Guide to a Well-Behaved Parrot*, 3rd ed. Barron's Educational Series, 2007.

Gallerstein, Gary A. *The Complete Pet Bird Owner's Handbook*, 3rd ed. Avian Publications, 2003.

Johnson, Melinda. *Clicker Training for Birds*. Sunshine Books, Inc. 2003.

CATS

Arden, Darlene. *The Complete Cat's Meow: Everything You Need to Know About Caring for Your Cat*. Howell Book House, 2011.

Bradshaw, John. *Cat Sense: How the New Feline Science Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet*. Basic Books, 2013.

Krieger, Marilyn. *Naughty No More*. I-5 Press, 2011.

DOGS

Bradshaw, John. *Dog Sense: How the New Science of Dog Behavior Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet*. Basic Books, 2011.

Kilcommons, Brian, and Wilson, Sarah. *Good Owners Great Dogs*. Warner Books, 1999.

———. *My Smart Puppy: Fun, Effective, and Easy Puppy Training*. Grand Central Publishing, 2006.

Rosen, Michael J. *My Dog!: A Kids' Guide to Keeping a Happy and Healthy Pet*. Workman Publishing Company, 2011.

FISH

- Alderton, David. *Encyclopedia of Aquarium and Pond Fish*. DK Adult, 2008.
- Andrews, Chris, et al. *Manual of Fish Health*. Firefly Books, 2010.
- Boruchowitz, David E. *The Simple Guide to Freshwater Aquariums*, 2nd ed. TFH Publications, 2009.
- Thraves, Stuart. *Setting Up a Tropical Aquarium Week by Week*. Firefly Books, 2009.

SMALL ANIMALS

- Birmelin, Immanuel. *Guinea Pigs: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual*, 2nd ed. Barron's Educational Series, 2008.
- Fox, Sue. *Hamsters*. TFH Publications, 2006.
- Geiger, Diana. *Ferrets: A Complete Guide*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011.

OTHER PETS

- Bartlett, R.D. *Lizard Care From A to Z: From Anoles to Zonosaurus*, 2nd ed. Barron's Educational Series, 2008.
- Mull, Kayla, and Lorrie Blackburn, DVM. *Pot-Bellied Pet Pigs: Mini-Pig Care and Training*. All Publishing Company, 2008.
- Purser, Philip. *Good Snakekeeping: A Comprehensive Guide to All Things Serpentine*. TFH Publications, 2010.
- Parker, Karen, DVM. *The Rabbit Handbook*, 2nd ed. Barron's Educational Series, 2009.

Organizations and Other Resources***Aquarium USA, Bird Talk, Cat Fancy, Dog Fancy, and Reptiles* magazines**

I-5 Publishing
3 Burroughs
Irvine, CA 92618
Telephone: 213-385-2222
Website:
<http://www.animalnetwork.com>

American Cat Fanciers Association

P.O. Box 1949
Nixa, MO 65714-1949
Telephone: 417-725-1530
Website: <http://www.acfacat.com>

American Humane Association

1400 16th St. NW, Suite 360
Washington, DC 20036
Toll-free telephone: 800-227-4645
Website:
<http://americanhumane.org>

American Kennel Club

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

The Humane Society of the United States

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

SPAY/USA

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