



Pets

Scouts BSA · Nature

Name

Started

Completed

Caring for a pet teaches responsibility and builds a strong bond. You'll show how you care for your pet, learn more about it, and maybe teach it some tricks. It's a badge that rewards everyday kindness and patience.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/pets/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

- ☐ **1** With approval before you begin, show proof that you took care of a pet for four months. Work used for another merit badge doesn't count

Tip: Keep a simple chart of feeding, cleaning, and exercise so you have a record of your care.

Example: Keep a chart on the fridge or a notebook: date, feeding times, fresh water, litter or cage cleaning, walks or playtime, and anything unusual like a missed meal. Snap a photo of the chart each month so you don't lose your record.

- ☐ **2** Write at least 200 words on how you care for, feed, and house your pet. Share some interesting facts, why you chose this kind of pet, and any local laws about keeping it

Tip: Write about what your pet eats, where it lives, and how you keep it healthy.

Example: For a guinea pig, your 200 words might cover the cage size and bedding, daily hay and vegetables, why they need vitamin C, how often you clean, and signs that mean a visit to the vet, like not eating.

- ☐ **3** Show that you read a counselor-approved book or pamphlet about your kind of pet, and discuss what you learned with your counselor

Tip: Find a book about your kind of pet at the library and share one new thing you learned.

4 Show or train your pet: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Practice tricks a few minutes a day with treats or praise. Patience works better than long sessions.

Example for this section: With a dog, teach sit, stay, and shake in short sessions of five minutes a day, rewarding with small treats and praise. Keep notes on how many days each trick took and what helped your pet learn.

- ☐ **4a** Enter your pet in a pet show

- ☐ **4b** Teach a pet three or more tricks or special skills

5 Careers or hobbies: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Talk with a veterinarian, groomer, or pet store worker about their job.

Example for this section: Interview a veterinary technician, groomer, or shelter worker with a parent present. Ask what training they needed, what a normal day is like, and what part of the job is hardest.

- ☐ **5a** Research one career related to pets: training and education, costs, job outlook, pay, duties, and advancement. With a parent's or guardian's permission, you may search online or at a library, interview a professional, or visit a workplace. Discuss what you found and what makes it interesting with your counselor

- ☐ **5b** Research how pet skills could become a hobby or part of a healthy lifestyle, including training, costs, and groups that support it. Discuss with your counselor the short- and long-term goals you might set