

Welcome to Troop 325's Merit Badge Midway



Dog Care Merit Badge

Please DO NOT bring dogs or any pets to the Midway. They are not allowed on campus.
A follow up session will be scheduled for any requirement that needs your pet to be present.

Dog Care

- Read the pamphlet, bring pencil paper and a signed blue card with you.
- Do req. 3 - present a report describing the care you have given
- Do req. 4 - present a report showing how much it costs to keep your dog for 2 months
- Do req. 8 - visit a veterinary hospital or an animal shelter, be prepared to discuss your visit

Requirements were REVISED effective January 1, 2004.

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 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.
7. Do the following:
 - A. Explain the 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.

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

BSA Advancement ID#: 41
Requirements last updated in: 2004
Pamphlet Stock Number: 33289A
Pamphlet Revision Date: 2003

- Other requirements will be worked on in class