



DOG CARE MERIT BADGE

Use this tracking tool for the Dog Care Merit Badge during Cyber Sled Race

SCOUT / VENTURER NAME: _____

Activity

Race Course Area

Completed?

1. Do the following:

- a. Describe 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.

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2. Point out on a dog or a sketch at least 10 body parts. Give the correct name of each one.

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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.

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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.

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**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.*

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."

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6a. Describe the proper vaccination schedule for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood.

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6b. Describe the control methods for preventing fleas, ticks, heartworms, and intestinal parasites (worms) for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood.

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6c. Explain the importance of dental care and tooth brushing to your pet's health.

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6d. Describe the benefits of grooming your dog's coat and nails on a regular basis.

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6e. Describe any seasonal conditions (like hot summers, cold winters, or extreme humidity) where you live that need to be considered for your dog.

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6f. Describe the considerations and advantages of spaying or neutering your dog.

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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 describe the cause and method of spread, the signs and symptoms and the methods of prevention of rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and heartworms in dogs.

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

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

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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. Explain why this profession interests you.

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