

Boy Scout DOG CARE Merit Badge Requirements: Please Read Carefully!



There are nine requirements for this badge. Six of these requirements (#1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9) will be completed in the workshop that day.

Due to the nature of requirements #4, #5 and #8, you must complete these on your own **PRIOR TO THE WORKSHOP** and bring the documentation with you. We will sign off on your badge and give you a certificate of completion that day.

Requirement # 4:

You must keep a **daily log of the care you provide to your dog for 2 months**. Most boys use a calendar and symbols to represent each aspect of care. Make sure to make a legend at the top of the calendar to identify what each symbol stands for. (For example: w = water, f= food, etc. or you can draw pictures or use stickers). Or you can write a **daily** paragraph about the care you gave your dog. You will probably find that the calendar is easiest. You **MUST** include all of the types of care mentioned in the merit badge requirements (training, weekly weight, grooming, bathing, vet care, heartworm and flea preventative, etc.).

You must also determine the cost of caring for your dog for two months. You must add up the cost of all of the items needed for the above care (food, treats, shampoo, heartworm pills, boarding costs and grooming costs, etc.). We will need to see your math and an accurate total for the two months.

Requirement #5:

This will take some planning and patience as it requires that you **teach your dog three tricks using positive reinforcement** such as praise, toys and/or treats. You can document this by having someone take photos of you giving your dog the three commands while the dog actually does them. You need to be in the picture, so someone else must take them. You may either print and bring the photos with you that day OR bring the camera with you to the Humane Society of Missouri to show them to me. Please **DO NOT** email them to me. I will not be able to sign off on this portion of the badge until I see the pictures.

I prefer to see the following life-saving commands: sit, stay, come, and leave it. You can also show me other tricks if you'd like but I prefer to see that your dog knows these important commands.

Requirement #8:

Think of at least 5 different questions you would like to have answered about the Humane Society of Missouri or about animal shelters and veterinary medical centers in general. Write these questions down and bring them with you. Before the workshop is over, write the answers down as you learn them. I will read your questions and answers before signing off on this

requirement. I also encourage you to share what you've learned with your fellow Scouts after attending this workshop. Ask your Scoutmaster if you can use about 5 minutes of your next scout meeting to talk about what you learned while you were here.

Helpful Information:

Although you are not required to have a dog to attend this workshop, you must have one to complete requirement numbers 4 and 5. We have had many Boy Scouts attend who are considering adopting a dog and want to find out more about the responsibilities and care required before they get a dog. You can always attend the workshop and then complete the last two requirements in the future when you do add a canine family member to your pack. When you are ready to expand your pack, please consider giving a dog the second chance he/she so deserves by adopting from a local shelter, animal control facility or breed rescue group where there are thousands of homeless animals just waiting to find their loving forever homes.

Are you interested in helping homeless animals in another way? Consider organizing a donation drive prior to attending this workshop and collect new or gently used towels, stuffed animals (cage buddies), blankets, linens of any kind, pet toys, peanut butter and treats.