



# Dog Care

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 34765).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2004 • This workbook was updated in January 2013.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

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.

Group	Breed(s)	Characteristics
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

c. Tell some specific characteristics of seven breeds of dogs (one from each major group), OR give a short history of one breed. \_\_\_\_\_

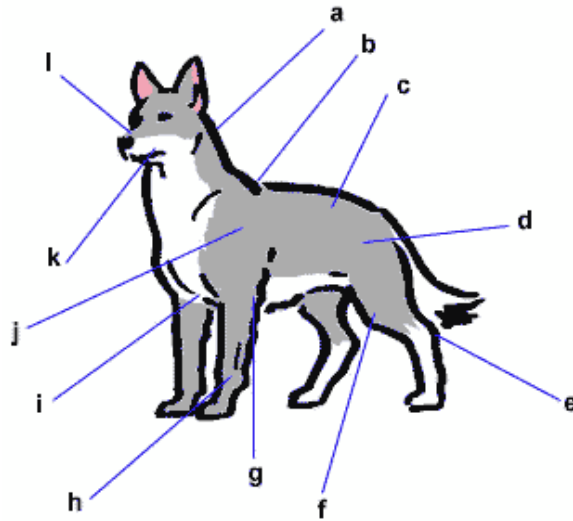
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\_\_\_\_\_

2. Point out on a dog (or on a sketch) at least 10 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. \_\_\_\_\_

house-training \_\_\_\_\_

obedience training \_\_\_\_\_

socialization training \_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Sample Blank Logs are located at the end of the workbook)*

- 5. Explain the correct way to obedience train a dog and what equipment you would need. \_\_\_\_\_

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Show with your dog any three of these commands:

- "Come,"  "Sit,"  "Down,"  "Heel,"  "Stay,"  "Take it,"  "Get it,"  "Drop it."

- 6. Do the following:

- a. Discuss the proper vaccination schedule for a dog in your area from puppyhood through adulthood. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Fleas \_\_\_\_\_

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ticks \_\_\_\_\_

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heartworms \_\_\_\_\_

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and intestinal parasites (worms) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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- d. Discuss the benefits of grooming your dog's coat and nails on a regular basis. \_\_\_\_\_

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- 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 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 to 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.

- |                                |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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- 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.

Rabies: Cause: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
method of spread, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
signs and symptoms \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and the methods of prevention \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parvovirus: Cause: \_\_\_\_\_  
method of spread, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
the signs and symptoms \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and the methods of prevention \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Distemper: Cause: \_\_\_\_\_  
method of spread, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
the signs and symptoms \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and the methods of prevention \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Heartworms: Cause: \_\_\_\_\_  
method of spread, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
the signs and symptoms \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
and the methods of prevention \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 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 requirements for other merit badges.

SAMPLE DOG CARE LOG Month 1

Starting Date:    /    /        Ending Date:    /    /        \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Feeding Schedule	Food Types	Food Amount	Exercise Periods	Training Schedule	Body Weight	Grooming	Bathing	Veterinary Care	Costs

SAMPLE DOG CARE LOG Month 2

Starting Date:    /    /            Ending Date:    /    /            \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Feeding Schedule	Food Types	Food Amount	Exercise Periods	Training Schedule	Body Weight	Grooming	Bathing	Veterinary Care	Costs
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**Requirement resources can be found here:**  
[http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Dog\\_Care#Requirement\\_resources](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Dog_Care#Requirement_resources)



## Important excerpts from the [‘Guide To Advancement’](#), No. 33088:

Effective January 1, 2012, the ‘Guide to Advancement’ (which replaced the publication ‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’) is now the official Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

- [ Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4 ] — **Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**

**No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.** (There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)

- [ Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1 ] — The [‘Guide to Safe Scouting’](#) Applies

Policies and procedures outlined in the ‘Guide to Safe Scouting’, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]

- [ 7.0.3.1 ] — **The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**

Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative—or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge—along with him attending the session. When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult certification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.

- [ 7.0.3.2 ] — **Group Instruction**

It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout — actually and *personally*— completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.

- [ 7.0.3.3 ] — **Partial Completions**

Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished — a “partial.” In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, he or she does not retain the counselor’s portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.--