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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)

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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.**

1. Do the following:

a. Briefly discuss the historical origin and domestication of the dog.

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b. Describe some common characteristics of the dogs that make up each of the seven major dog groups.

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|  | Group | Breed(s) | Characteristics |
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c. Tell some specific characteristics of seven breeds of dogs (one from each major group),

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|  | Breed | Group | Characteristics |
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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.

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| http://www.peteducation.com/images/articles/doganat.gif | a. |  |
| b. |  |
| c. |  |
| d. |  |
| e. |  |
| f. |  |
| g. |  |
| h. |  |
| i. |  |
| j. |  |
| k. |  |

3. Do the following:

a. Explain the importance of house-training, obedience training, and socialization training for your dog.

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| House-training |  |
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| Obedience training |  |
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| Socialization training |  |
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. Explain what “responsible pet ownership” means.

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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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*(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.

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| Fleas |  |
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| Ticks |  |
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| Heartworms |  |
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| 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.

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f. Discuss with your counselor 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.

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b. ⬜ Show how to put on an emergency muzzle

c. Explain how to treat wounds.

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Explain first aid for a dog bite.

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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.

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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.

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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:

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| Cause: |  |
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| Method of spread, |  |
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| Signs and symptoms |  |
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| Methods of prevention |  |
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Parvovirus:

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| --- | --- |
| Cause: |  |
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| Method of spread, |  |
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| Signs and symptoms |  |
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| Methods of prevention |  |
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Distemper:

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| Cause: |  |
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| Method of spread, |  |
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| Signs and symptoms |  |
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| Methods of prevention |  |
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Heartworms:

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| Cause: |  |
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| Method of spread, |  |
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| Signs and symptoms |  |
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| Methods of prevention |  |
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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.

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Pick one and find out about the education, training, and experience required for this career, and discuss this with your counselor.

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| Career: |  | |
| Education | |  |
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| Training: | |  |
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| Experience: | |  |
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Tell why this profession interests you..

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**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from** [**http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf**](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf)**.**

**You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from** [**http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf**](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf)**.**

**SAMPLE DOG CARE LOG Month 1**

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

## Feeding Food Food Exercise Training Body Veterinary

## Date Schedule Types Amount Periods Schedule Weight Grooming Bathing Care Costs

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#### SAMPLE DOG CARE LOG Month 2

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

## Feeding Food Food Exercise Training Body Veterinary

## Date Schedule Types Amount Periods Schedule Weight Grooming Bathing Care Costs

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