

Cub Scout Academics: Pet Care



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- _____ 1. Care for your pet for two weeks. Make a list of the tasks that you did to take care of your pet.
- _____ 2. Read a book, explore the Internet (with your parent's or adult partner's permission), or acquire a pamphlet about your pet. List three new interesting facts that you learned about your pet.
- _____ 3. Make a poster about your pet. Share your poster with your den, pack, or family.

Academics Pin

Earn the Pets belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:

- _____ 1. With an adult, develop a plan for someone to care for your pet if you were to be away for one week.
- _____ 2. Train your pet to do a trick or follow a simple command.
- _____ 3. Describe how your pet communicates with you and other animals.

- _____ 4. Observe or play with your pet for 15 minutes each day for one week. Keep a chart that shows your pet's mood on each day.
- _____ 5. Attend a pet show. Report to your den about the show.
- _____ 6. Make a drawing of the cage or bed your pet requires. Describe the important parts of it.
- _____ 7. Visit an animal shelter. Explain the reasons why pets are in the animal shelter to your den or family.
- _____ 8. Visit a pet store. Make a list of the different animals in the store and the kinds of foods they eat.
- _____ 9. Talk to a veterinarian about his or her career. Share what you learned with your den or family.
- _____ 10. Tell three ways that animals can help people.
- _____ 11. Do a service project for an animal shelter, exercise an elderly person's pet, or help a friend with the care of his or her pet.
- _____ 12. Find out about the pets of U.S. presidents while they lived at the White House. Tell your den about one president and his pet(s).

Resources

Animals are an important part of the environment and our world. Since we are the most intelligent and advanced animal on Earth, as good Scouts, we need to do our part in the care of all animals. This is especially important for those animals that are part of our daily lives—our pets. A visit to your local library or bookstore will have many resources.

Books About Pets

Animal Connection: A Guide to Intuitive Communication With Your Pet, by Judy Meyer. Plume, 2000.

The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care, by David L. Carroll. Plume, 2006.

The Canary Caper, by Ron Roy. Random House Books for Young Readers, 1998.

Complete Guide to Lost Pet Prevention and Recovery, by Joseph Andrew Sapia and Patricia Sapia. Atlantic Highlands N.J., 2002.

A Dog's Best Friend: An Activity Book for Kids and Their Dogs, by Lisa Rosenthal. Chicago Review Press, 1999.

Illustrated Veterinary Guide, 2nd ed., by Chris C. Pinney, D.V.M. McGraw-Hill Professional Publishing, 2000.

Jack Hanna's Ultimate Guide to Pets, by Jack Hanna. Perigee Trade, 1997.

Organizations and Web Sites

Animal Planet

Web site: <http://www.animal.discovery.com>

Animalforum.com

Web site: <http://www.animalforum.com>

Pets and Hand Washing

Hand washing helps prevent the spread of disease and illness that can be transmitted by contact with a pet, so it is very important. Wash your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer anytime you play with pets, handle their food dishes, toys, bedding, grooming tools, and litter boxes.

Presidents and Their Pets

President	Animals
George Washington	Polly the parrot; 36 hounds; horses (among them Nelson, his favorite)
Thomas Jefferson	A mockingbird named Dick; two bear cubs, a gift from Lewis and Clark
John Quincy Adams	An alligator
Martin Van Buren	Two tiger cubs
Abraham Lincoln	Jack the turkey; goats named Nanny and Nanko; Fido the dog
Andrew Johnson	White mice
John F. Kennedy	Tom Kitten the cat; Robin the canary; Zsa Zsa the rabbit; Pushinka, a dog; ponies Macaroni, Tex, and Leprechaun
Lyndon Johnson	Beagles Him and Her, Freckles (Him's pup), Little Beagle, Blanco, Collie, and Yuki
Richard Nixon	Checkers, a cocker spaniel; Vicky, a poodle; Pasha, a terrier; King Timahoe, an Irish setter
Jimmy Carter	Grits the dog; Misty Malarky Ying Yang, a Siamese cat
Ronald Reagan	Rex, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel; Lucky, a Bouvier des Flandres Rex sheepdog
George H. W. Bush	Millie, a Springer spaniel; Ranger, one of Millie's pups
Bill Clinton	Socks the cat; Buddy, a chocolate Labrador retriever
George W. Bush	Spot Fetcher, English Springer spaniel; Barney and Miss Beazley, Scottish Terriers; India "Willie," a cat