



Brownie Pets Badge

Pillar: STEM

Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to take care of a pet.



Juliette Low loved all kinds of animals! In her lifetime she had many pets and she knew the best ways to take care of them all.

"It is unfair to have a pet and not take good care of it... If a pet belongs to you, it is your job to keep it well and happy." - Girl Scout Handbook, 1953

Brownies will follow these steps to earn their badge:

1. Find out what kind of care different pets need. (Discover)

- a. Do you have a pet? Great! Talk with your family to answer the questions below.
- b. Do you not have a pet but want one? Great! Do some research with your family on a pet you'd like to own or visit your local animal shelter or veterinarian to answer the questions below.
 - How much does it cost to take care of this pet?
 - What and how often does this pet eat?
 - Does this pet need or like human contact? How much or little?
 - How much space does this pet need?
 - Where does this pet sleep? And do they sleep during the night or day?
 - What is the energy level of this pet? Is that energy level compatible with our family?

2. Keep a pet comfy. (Connect)

- a. If you have a pet, commit to keeping their space clean for a week. That could mean cleaning their cage or litter box, picking up after them, taking them for walks, or washing their bedding.
- b. If you don't have a pet, take care of a stuffed animal as if it were a pet, or research with your parents/caregiver a virtual pet app that will help you pretend to take care of a pet. Consider how often you will need not clean up after them.

3. Help a pet stay healthy and safe. (Connect/Take Action)

- a. With your parent or caregiver, do a home audit and check for any areas that might be unhealthy for a pet – one or own or an imaginary one. Are there pest control traps that they could come in contact with? Are any of your house plants toxic to pets? Could they crawl behind furniture and chew on cords? Is your pet's cage or tank in a dangerous spot? Make a list of potential hazards and then brainstorm ideas for how to remove the hazard or remedy the situation.



4. Make a pet feel loved. (Discover/Connect/Take Action)

- a. Pets need lots of love, attention, and opportunities to play. Investigate how different pets play and then make a toy for your own pet or one you'd like to own. You could also donate homemade pet toys to your local animal shelter!

5. Feed a pet (Discover)

- a. What does your pet (or the pet you would like to own) eat? Visit a store that sells pet food and do some comparison shopping of different brands of pet food. Consider the cost, ingredients, serving size, and nutritional value of each food. Which is best for your pet?

For inspiration, instructions, and ideas, check out our Brownie Pets Badge Pinterest Board.

<https://www.pinterest.com/gprograms/brownie-resources/badge-pets/>

When you're finished: Congratulations, you have earned your Brownie Pets Badge! You can purchase at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/BROWNIE-PETS-BADGE>.

Purchase the GS Virtual main patch and bars at

<https://www.gksmo.org/orderpatches>

