



Cadette Animal Helpers

Pillar: Life Skills/STEAM

When you've earned this badge, you'll know how animals help humans.



Cadettes will follow these steps to earn their badge:

1. Explore the connection between humans and animals. (Discover)
 - a. Watch a documentary about animals. How have humans changed the way they view animals. For example, what have humans discovered about how animals behave in the wild vs. how we behave. Which animals care for one another? What do we know about animals and their feelings? Did you know there was a time when humans believed that animals had no feelings?
 - b. Research pets of the presidents! Which presidents had them? What are some of the most interesting pets that presidents' have kept?
 - c. Research how animals are treated different around the world. Some animals to begin with might include dogs, cows, guinea pigs.
2. Find out how animals help keep people safe. (Discover)
 - a. Watch this video about how these animals came to the rescue of humans: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkyNhQ5Pmoo>
 - b. Watch a National Geographic photographer as he captures an avalanche rescue dog at work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9bvI0UDYj4> Then watch K9 units train for Search and Rescue: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDvLgWJR1Bk>
 - c. Research and make a list of what it takes to be a rescue dog. Are there preferred breeds? What characteristics are desirable to be chosen to train as a rescue dog? What is the training like for the dog and human handler?
3. Know how animals help people emotionally. (Discover, Connect)
 - a. Do some field research! Survey at least 5-7 people you know that have pets. Find out what they love about their pets and how their pets make them feel. Try to interview different people and a variety of pets. What does a cat owner, a dog owner, bird owner and even a fish owner have in common about how their pet makes them feel? After you have done your field research, watch how pets improve mood and more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QWu1OJCmMA>
 - b. Learn about how animal assisted therapy works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YW52mdol-W8> Now watch it in action with these unusual animals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBW11vbObs> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5buzXM98CDI>
 - c. Did you know that chickens are therapeutic? Learn about how veterans with service-related ailments such as PTSD and physical injuries are benefiting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqCycafDzCo>
4. Check out how animals help people with disabilities. (Discover, Connect)
 - a. Learn about service dogs here: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/service-dog-training-101/>



- b. Meet some puppies training to be service dogs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k6cA27iWy8>
 - c. Look up specific tasks a dog may train to do for a human with a disability. Can you find the techniques a trainer might use to teach the dog to perform those tasks?
 - d. Can you find a dog obedience trainer in your area to talk to? Ask them the benefits of dog training for both the dog and the owner.
5. Look at how animals might help us in the future. (Discover, Take Action)
- a. Recently dogs are being trained to detect Covid-19. Dogs can also detect blood sugar spikes or drops for diabetics. Ferrets are being used to help researchers battle Covid-19: <https://undark.org/2020/04/25/ferrets-covid-19/> What might dogs be trained to do in the future? Look up the special characteristics of animals common as pet. What could they be used for to help us in the future?
 - b. Check out how these animals help: <https://www.globalgiving.org/learn/ways-animals-help-us/>
 - c. Based on everything you have learned by earning this badge, what could you educate others about? Choose one thing you've discovered and share what you know!

When you're finished: Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase online at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/CADETTE-ANIMAL-HELPERS-BADGE>.

You can also purchase your Girl Scout Virtual main patch and bars at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/GSKSMO-Virtual-AllPatch> or just the main patch / bar individually at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/NE-KANSAS-and-NW-MISSOURI-COUNCIL>.

