

BROWNIE PETS BADGE

Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to take care of a pet.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law and sing The Brownie Smile song. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Brownie Smile song lyrics poster
15 minutes	All About Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will create posters teaching people how to care for a specific animal. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet/animal care resources <input type="checkbox"/> Paper or tag board <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring utensils
15 minutes	Kitchen Towel Braids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will make dog toys to use at home or to donate. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Old kitchen towels (1 per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors
15 minutes	Incredible, Edible Nests Snack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will make a healthy snack to enjoy and also have a discussion about animal care. 	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 oz. plastic cups or small plastic bowls <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic spoons/forks <input type="checkbox"/> Raw carrots <input type="checkbox"/> Pretzel sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut butter, cottage cheese, hummus, or plain yogurt (¼ cup - ½ cup per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Water or other beverage <input type="checkbox"/> Napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer
10 minutes	You Can't Do That! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will learn how to keep animals healthy and safe. 	None
5 minutes	Pet Feeding Worksheet Take Home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will receive a worksheet to take home. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet Feeding worksheet (1 per girl)
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster and (optional) Girl Scout Brownie Smile song lyrics poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and sing the Brownie Smile song.



Activity #1: All About Pets

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 — Find out how to care for different pets

Materials Needed: Paper or tag board; coloring utensils; animal care resources

Prep Needed:

- Check out books from your local library or print pet care sheets from online.
- 1. Ask the girls if they have any pets at home, or what kind of pet they'd like to have.
- 2. Have the girls split into pairs. Each pair should choose an animal. This can be an animal they have at home or an animal from one of the resources you provide.
- 3. Hand out a sheet of paper or tag board to each group. Explain that they are going to design a flyer or small poster to teach people about their animal – based on information from the provided resources. This should help them decide if they would like to have this animal as a pet. Use the following prompt questions to help girls design their flyers/posters:
 - How much space does this pet need?
 - Does it need to be inside or outside or both?
 - Do you need anything special for it in to be in either of these places (cage, leash, etc.)?
 - How much food does this pet need?
 - What might it cost to buy the food?
 - What kind of human contact or exercise does this pet like?
- 4. If time allows, have each group share what they created.

RESOURCE SUGGESTIONS:

- Pet care resource sheets:
 - <http://www.asPCA.org/pet-care>
 - http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/pet_care_behavior_tip_sheets.html
- Books about pets/pet care:
 - *National Geographic Kids: Everything Pets* by James Spears
 - *ASPCA Complete Dog Care Manual* by Bruce Fogle

Activity #2: Kitchen Towel Braids

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 — Make a pet feel loved

Materials Needed: Old kitchen towels (1 per girl)

Prep Needed:

- Cut two slits along the length of each towel. Stop cutting about an inch from the top.
- 1. Ask girls what they like to do for fun. Just like us, pets need to have fun too. If you have a pet, you need to take time every day to play with it and make it feel loved. Ask the girls about ways they can play with their pets and make them feel loved. Explain that today we're going to make a toy to help a dog feel loved.
- 2. Give each girl a pre-cut towel. Have her braid the towel all the way down. When girls are finished, they should knot both sides to keep the braid from unraveling. They may need help with this step.
- 3. If there is leftover material, girls can take a long piece of material and knot it over and over again.
- 4. They have now made a great toy to help a dog feel loved! If girls have a dog, they make bring their towel home (with parent's permission) for their dog to play with. If girls do not have a pet dog, you can donate the extra toys to a local animal shelter so those dogs can feel loved too.

NOTE: You can also use old bath towels, blue jeans, or fleece cut up in smaller pieces.



Activity #3: Incredible, Edible Nests Snack

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 — Keep a pet comfy

Materials Needed: 8 oz. plastic cups or small plastic bowls; plastic spoons/forks; raw carrots; pretzel sticks; peanut butter, cottage cheese, hummus, or plain yogurt (¼ cup - ½ cup per girl); water or other beverage; napkins; hand sanitizer

Prep Needed:

- Shred raw carrots (½ cup per girl).
 - Make sample nest to show girls.
1. Ask girls what makes them comfortable - when they go to sleep at night or if they're relaxing during the day. Do animals need to be comfortable when they're relaxing too? Do they all enjoy a bed like we do?
 2. Ask the girls how birds like to rest and sleep. After girls share, tell them they will be making a nest of their own—to eat!
 3. Mix carrots with peanut butter or other binding food listed above.
 4. Shape mixture into cup and cover with pretzel sticks to make it look like a nest. Enjoy!
 5. While enjoying snack, here are some things for girls to talk about:
 - Do other animals sleep in nests? Are they the same kind of nests as birds?
 - What pets do you have at home? Where do they like to sleep or relax?
 - Do you like it when people bother you when you are sleeping? Should you bother pets when they are sleeping?

Activity #4: You can't do that!

Time: 10 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 — Help a pet stay healthy and safe

- Explain to the girls that just like people, animals have needs that keep them healthy and safe. Some needs are similar to humans (all pets need to eat like us), but some needs are different. Some things we do may even harm animals! Ask the girls to think of something they do for themselves that might harm their pet if they did it to them.
- Read through the following statements about pets and have girls try to guess if it's something they **should** do or **shouldn't** do to keep that animal healthy and safe.
 - We take baths to stay clean. Rabbits should get a regular bath too.
Shouldn't. Rabbits clean themselves. A bath can be so stressful that it can make them sick.
 - We eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Iguanas can eat some of the same fruits and veggies we do.
Should. However, you should always research what your pet can and cannot eat.
 - We get our nails trimmed. Dogs and cats should get their nails trimmed too.
Should. Living in a house or yard doesn't wear down their nails like in the wild; however, you should always get instruction from a vet before clipping nails to avoid injury.
 - We get our hair cut regularly and it doesn't hurt. Birds should get their feathers cut and it doesn't hurt either.
Shouldn't. Birds should get their feathers cut, but you must know what you're doing because you can hurt them and make them sick if you trim them improperly.
 - We go to the doctor for a yearly physical. Pets should have a yearly physical too.
Should. Almost all pets should see a vet at least once a year to make sure they're in good health.
 - We brush our teeth every day. Cats should get their teeth brushed daily too.
Should. If possible, you should brush cat's teeth once a day to prevent tartar build-up.
- Ask girls if they know any other similarities or differences between animals and people.

Activity #5: Pet Feeding Worksheet Take Home

Time: 5 minutes



Badge Connection: Step 5 — Feed a pet

Materials Needed: Pet Feeding worksheets (1 per girl)

Prep Needed:

- Print copies of the Pet Feeding worksheets.
- 1. Pass out the Pet Feeding worksheets to the girls.
- 2. Let girls know that to complete the badge, they need to work with a trusted adult to find out how much it costs to feed two different pets.
- 3. Explain that the girls should bring back the worksheets to share what they found out at the next meeting.

Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit the local veterinarian or animal hospital.
 - Go to a local farm that has animals to learn about the differences between farm animals and pets.
 - Visit a council camp with horses and learn how to muck out the stalls (available May–October).
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a vet or animal trainer to talk to girls about their work with animals.
 - Invite a family member that has a pet to talk about the experience of owning a pet.
 - Invite the camp riding director to your meeting to talk about horses.



Pet Feeding Cost Worksheet

To complete your Pets badge, work with an adult to calculate the cost of feeding two different pets for a month. Use the tables below to calculate the cost. If you don't have pets, you can research what food pets need and how much it costs online, at your local pet store, or even at your local grocery story.

Pet #1: _____

Item	Cost of Item	Times purchased per month	Cost per month (cost x times per month)
Food:			
Treats:			
Vitamins:			
Total:			

Pet #2: _____

Item	Cost of Item	Times purchased per month	Cost per month (cost x times per month)
Food:			
Treats:			
Vitamins:			
Total:			

