Brownie Pets Badge

**STEPS**

1. Find out what care different pets need
2. Keep a pet comfy
3. Help a pet stay healthy and safe
4. Make a pet feel loved
5. Feed a pet

When you've earned this badge, you’ll know how to take care of a pet.
**STEP 1: FIND OUT WHAT CARE DIFFERENT PETS NEED**

Pets are as different as the people who love them. Play Pet Bingo to find out which pet would be the best fit for you.

Play bingo online. Team up with an adult and your brownie friends to research pets on the web. Pick one of the squares. Then answer these questions about the animal listed:
- How much does it cost to care for this pet?
- How much space does this pet need?
- How much food does this pet need?
- What kind of human contact does this pet like?

**STEP 2: KEEP A PET COMFY**

*Pets need a clean and comfortable place to live—if their cage, tank, or doghouse is dirty, they can get sick. Learn what one pet needs to have a home sweet home.*

For two weeks, take charge of cleaning for a fish, hamster, bird, cat or other pet with its own little house or litter box. Or, find out how the pet likes to sleep. Make a bed for a cat or dog, or a sleeping nook for a hamster or guinea pig.

**STEP 3: HELP A PET STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE**

*Just like humans, pets need special care to stay healthy. Find out about how to keep them safe, feeling good, and looking good, too.*

Help a dog get exercise for one week. Team up with an adult to walk a dog. Decide where to go based on weather, how much exercise the dog needs, and where it is safe and fun. For even more fun, draw a map of the best place to walk a dog in your neighborhood and share it with dog owners.

Find out how to keep different pets looking good. Pick three pets and find out how often the have to be washed or brushed and any other special care tips. Then try out what you’ve learned by grooming a pet.

**STEP 4: MAKE A PET FEEL LOVED**

*Pets need attention, hugs, and kind words, as well as lots of time to have fun and play. Learning to be a good pet owner is like learning to be a good parent.*

Make up a game to play with a pet, like throw-and-catch for a dog, or a game with a feather toy for a cat. Write your game down so you can share it with others. Then play the game!

Or make a simple pet toy. You could fill an old sock with catnip and knot the top for a cat. Or make a sock doll to keep a dog happy.

**STEP 5: FEED A PET**

*One of the most important responsibilities of a pet owner is knowing what her pet eats, how much it needs to eat, and what it can’t eat. And, of course, making sure there’s food ready when the pet gets hungry.*

If you have a pet of your own, make a feeding schedule. Make sure you know when and how often your pet needs to eat. Then feed your pet using your schedule for two weeks.

Or make a pet budget for two pets. Add up how much it costs to feed two different pets for one month. Think about regular food and any extras, such as treats and vitamins. Does the cost surprise you?
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