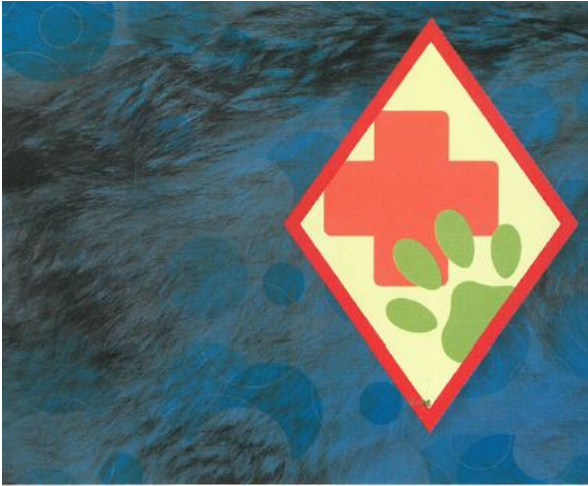


CADETTE BADGES TO DO AT HOME



Animals have always provided humans with food, clothing, and transportation, but today they're also trained to help people with disabilities, find people who are lost, and even discover tumors. And, of course, animals offer us companionship, love, and sheer joy. In this badge, look at how animals help humans. (Researchers say the love of an animal can improve our emotional health!)

Steps

1. Explore the connection between humans and animals
2. Find out how animals help keep people safe
3. Know how animals help people emotionally
4. Check out how animals help people with disabilities
5. Look at how animals might help us in the future

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how animals help humans, and how to help them keep it up.

Animal Helpers

To earn this badge, please complete one option per step.

STEPS	BADGE REQUIREMENTS	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Step 1	Explore the connection between humans and animals	Find out how views of animals have changed over the centuries. Watch a Netflix documentary of your choice about animal and human interaction. It used to be that people thought animals had no feelings. Through your research find 10 examples of how and why the human-animal connection has changed over time.	Watch a documentary series on the human-animal connection. How are dogs and cows viewed and treated in different parts of the world. Share your findings and discuss what you've learned with your family.	Show how animals have helped at key points in history. Find out what other kinds of animals are used to assist people with disabilities. Pinpoint five moments when animals took a role in human history than share through a skit for family or video for friends.

Step 2	Find out how animals keep people safe	Research a safety team that uses animals such as law enforcement.	Research an interview with an animal trainer. Find out what kinds of animals are best for which kind of profession. What type of education is required if you wanted to become an animal trainer.	Read stories on the web about animal heroes. Even animals that have not been trained are known to rise to the occasion when danger is in the air. Find five animal-hero stories and share them with your family.
Step 3	Know how animals help people emotionally	Find out how caring for a pet affects people's emotional and mental health. Research an interview with a psychologist that discusses this subject. How are the studies created and how can someone apply those findings her own life.	Find a virtual meeting of an organization that uses animals to help people emotionally. Research horse riding programs to help people with autism and even Multiple Sclerosis or MS. Other organizations take animals to nursing homes and hospitals. Research these type of studies and how they are created. Find out what you would need to know to work with such animals.	Conduct phone interviews with at least five people that you know who own a pet. Ask how their "fur-baby" makes them feel better. Make sure to capture their story through writing, etc. and ask for permission if you plan to share stories through a blog.
Step 4	Check out how animals help people with disabilities	Research online an interview with someone who trains assistance animals. Ask questions like what is involved in training the animals to assist people with disabilities such as epilepsy or someone who is paralyzed. What determines a best match of animal to disability?	Do you know of someone who uses an assistance animal? If not, go online to find out how an animal has changed a person's life. How easy or difficult was it to learn to work with the animal.	Research the pros and cons of training assistance animals. Share your opinion in writing.
Step 5	Look at how animals might help us in the future	Get a sense of different animals' unique skills and abilities. Research the senses and abilities of five animals, and create a chart and compare them with humans. Can you someday think of a way to train an animal to use those skills to help people?	Virtually visit a zoo and find out how researchers are finding new and different ways animals may help humans.	Practice being a scientist. Watch how animals act from the comfort of your own backyard. Did you see a raccoon? How about a squirrel? What about your own pet? Train your eyes to notice details about the animal.