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Allina Health 

Brownie Pets Badge Activity Plan 1

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

Program Essentials Link: Outdoor Awareness and Environmental Stewardship

Fun Patch Link: Pet Care

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 hours

Girls Take the Lead: While earning this award, there are many ways for girls to be leaders. These can be done by a small group or by individuals.

- Badge Buddies
 - Before the meeting, talk to girls about the activities. Have buddies decide what they want to try or ask them if they want to try something different.
 - Buddies can assist adults with prep needed for activities.
 - During the meeting, they can help lead other girls through the activities. They should make sure everyone has what they need and feels included.
- Food Friends
 - Talk to girls about what the snack will be and how they can help.

Customize It: If your group wants to expand work on this badge or simply try different activities, go for it! There are many ways to earn this award, including: completing the activities as listed in the *Brownie Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, completing two of these activity plans, attending a council-sponsored event or customizing activities. Pick the one(s) that work best for your group. Girls will know they have earned the award if:

- They learn about caring for a pet.
- They have helped keep a pet safe, healthy and comfy.
- They have made a pet feel loved.

Tips and Tools

- If a girl in your group does not have a pet, she can buddy with someone who has a pet to complete the steps for this badge.
- Check out ways to stay safe using Safety-Wise at GirlScoutsRV.org.
- Ensure that your activities are accessible to everyone. Ask in advance if any special accommodations need to be made. If you have questions regarding specific adaptations, please contact River Valleys at 800-845-0787.

Resources

- This activity plan has been adapted from the Brownie Skill-Building Badge set for the *It's Your Story—Tell It!* Pets Badge, which can be used for additional information and activities.

Getting Started

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Girl Scout Promise and Law printed out on poster board

Steps:

1. Welcome everyone to the meeting.
2. Recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Use repeat-after-me or say it as a group if girls know it by heart.

Girl Scout Promise	Girl Scout Law
<p><i>On my honor, I will try:</i> To serve God and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.</p>	<p><i>I will do my best to be</i> honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, <i>and to</i> respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.</p>

3. Sing the Brownie Smile Song. Use repeat-after-me or sing as a group if girls know it by heart.

The Brownie Smile Song
<p>I've got something in my pocket It belongs across my face I keep it very close at hand In a most convenient place I'm sure you wouldn't guess it If you guessed a long, long while So I'll take it out and put it on It's a great big Brownie Smile!</p>

Activity #1: All About Pets

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

Time Allotment: 10 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Optional: Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Large paper and markers for girls to make lists

Steps:

1. Ask girls what pets they have at home or would like to have at home. If you have a large sheet of paper, you can make a list so girls can see them. Leave some space below each one.
2. Ask girls to think about each animal at one time and ask them to think about the following questions:
 - 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 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 does this pet like?
3. If you have time, girls can pair up and talk about what kind of pet they might like to have and share it with the group.

Activity #2: Home Sweet Home

Badge Connection: Step 2—Keeping a pet comfy

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Comfy blankets or old towels

- Box(es)
- Newspaper
- Masking tape
- Optional: Additional items for decoration and the pet's comfort

Steps:

1. Have the girls brainstorm different pets and how they like to sleep. For example:
 - Cats sleep in a small bed
 - Hamsters sleep in a sleeping nook
 - Horses sleep in a stall
2. Have the girls work together in small groups or all together to create a sleeping bed for a cat or small dog.
3. Let the girls be creative and see what they design with the materials you provide.
4. After the girls have completed their masterpiece, have them discuss why they chose to work with certain items.

Activity #3: Pet Game Time

Badge Connection: Step 4—Make a pet feel loved

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Prep Needed:

- Gather materials and supplies.

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Writing utensils

Steps:

1. Have the girls make up a game that they can play with a pet of their choice.
2. Have the girls share their games and even try the games with the group.
3. If you are in a location that has a pet, play the game with that pet (if applicable).

Activity #4: Snack Chat

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Steps:

1. While enjoying snack, below are some things for girls to discuss. Optional: If your meeting location has a pet, take time to feed the pet, as well.
 - What is great about having a pet?
 - What are the responsibilities of having a pet?
 - How much does it cost to feed a pet?
 - What animal would you not keep as a pet?
 - How many pets are too many?

Wrapping Up

Time Allotment: 15 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Optional: Make New Friends printed on poster board

Steps:

1. Instruct girls to get into a Friendship Circle. Have girls stand in a circle and cross their right arms over their left, holding hands with the person on each side of them.
2. Sing "Make New Friends."

Make New Friends		
Verse One	Verse Two	Verse Three
Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver, the other is gold.	A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend.	You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, We have each other.

3. After the song, ask everyone to be quiet.
4. One of today's Badge Buddies should start the friendship squeeze by gently squeezing her neighbor's hand with her right hand. Then, that girl squeezes with her right hand. One by one, each girl passes the squeeze until it travels around the circle. When the squeeze returns to the Badge Buddy who started, she says "Goodbye Sister Girl Scouts" and the girls unwrap and face outward instead of inward.
5. Optional: Have girls make a wish after their hand has been squeezed and before they pass the squeeze along. Girls can also put their right foot out into the circle when they receive the friendship squeeze, so that everyone can see it travel along the 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.
 - Invite the camp riding director to your meeting to talk about horses. Email Camps@girlscoutrv.org for more information.

Suggestions

Do you have any suggestions to improve this activity plan? Do you have ideas for other possible badge-earning activities? Please email GirlProgram@girlscoutsv.org.

Family Follow-Up Email

Use the email on the next page as a template to let families know what girls did at the meeting today. Feel free to add additional information, including:

- When and where you will be meeting next
- What activities you will do at the next meeting
- Family help or assistance that is needed
- Supplies or materials that girls will need to bring to the next meeting
- Reminders about important dates and upcoming activities

Hello Girl Scout Families:

We had a wonderful time today learning about how to look after pets and are on our way to earning the Pets Badge.

We had fun:

- Getting to know the needs of certain pets
- Making a cozy sleeping place for a pet
- Making up games to play with different pets

Continue the fun at home:

- If you have a pet, ask your Girl Scout to take on additional responsibilities to take care of the pet.
- If you do not have a pet, visit family or friends with a pet to learn more.
- Look through the *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* with your Brownie to find other activities you can try at home.

Thank you for bringing your Brownie to Girl Scouts!