PAWS DART

SCOUT & YOUTH EDUCATION

YOUNG ANIMAL HEROES

Leader's Guide

A printable companion to the approved 14-page workbook





Helping animals. Helping families. Helping our community.

Edition for Scout leaders | November 2026 | pawsdart.org

Start here

Use any combination of pages. This is a stand-alone educational resource, not a substitute for official Scouting requirements.

BEFORE YOUR MEETING

Audience: Younger Cub Scouts and Girl Scout Brownies, with extensions for older youth. **Recommended format:** Group discussion plus one or more drawing, matching, sorting or service activities.

Basic supplies: One workbook per Scout or a shared display; pencils, crayons or markers, optional blunt-tip scissors and glue, a timer, and paper. For an optional demonstration: an **empty, clean** tote plus sample pet supplies. No live animals are needed.

MEETING PLANS

LENGTH	SUGGESTED FLOW
30 MIN	5 min welcome (p. 2); 10 min care (p. 3); 10 min illustrated activity (p. 4 or 6); 5 min reflection (p. 13).
60 MIN	5 min welcome; 10 min care (p. 3); 10 min sorting (p. 4); 10 min safety (p. 6 or 11); 15 min community (p. 7-10); 10 min reflection.
90 MIN	10 min welcome and icebreaker; 20 min care; 15 min outdoor observation or indoor alternative; 20 min rescue-kit and safety; 15 min service planning; 10 min reflection.

Leader reminder: A completed workbook earns the PAWS DART participation certificate only. Leaders decide advancement separately using their current official handbooks, Scout Adventure pages, and Girl Scout Volunteer Toolkit.

Welcome & animal care

Use these notes alongside the numbered PDF pages of the approved student workbook.

Welcome, Animal Hero!

WORKBOOK P. 2 | 5 MIN

PURPOSE

Create a welcoming tone and invite every child to join, including those who do not own pets.

LEAD IT

Have Scouts write their first name and unit, then read Dart and Pawsie's safety messages aloud. Introduce PAWS DART as a community nonprofit that helps people and animals after disasters.

ASK SCOUTS

What does a helpful animal hero do when a pet is frightened?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

A helpful Scout keeps distance, follows adult directions, and uses kindness rather than touching an unfamiliar pet.

Meet a Pet, Meet Its Needs

WORKBOOK P. 3 | 10-15 MIN

PURPOSE

Recognize that species have different needs for food, water, space, exercise and companionship.

LEAD IT

Invite Scouts to draw a real or imaginary pet, then compare the three pet-care matches. Ask how needs change for a fish, rabbit and dog.

ASK SCOUTS

What would be different if your pet were a cat, rabbit or fish?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Matching key: Dog - safe walks with an adult; Rabbit - hay and space to hop; Fish - clean, appropriate tank water.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Older Scouts can compare two suitable pets and list their daily care needs.

Sorting & observing

Sort the Pet Supplies

WORKBOOK P. 4 | 10-15 MIN

PURPOSE

Distinguish useful pet emergency items from things that do not belong in a pet-focused go-bag.

LEAD IT

Scouts color the pictures, then draw lines, cut-and-paste, or simply point to the correct box. Adults help with scissors. Explain that items differ with each pet.

ASK SCOUTS

Which things would help Dart and Pawsie stay safe or comfortable while away from home?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Take with us: water, suitable food, leash/collar, blanket, toy, treats, carrier (if needed), waste bags and essential pet medicine (only with adult/veterinary guidance). **Leave at home for this pet kit:** the pictured table lamp. A family emergency kit may have separate lighting supplies.

Animal Detective Walk

WORKBOOK P. 5 | 10-20 MIN

PURPOSE

Practice observation without approaching, startling or handling animals.

LEAD IT

Take a short supervised walk with buddies and appropriate permission, or use a window, schoolyard, photographs, or short nature video. Leave all three observations blank for the Scout's real findings.

ASK SCOUTS

How can we observe a bird or squirrel without getting too close?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Look, listen and note colors, movement and habitat. Do not feed wildlife or collect nests. Record descriptions if the species name is unknown.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

For badge work, use the official outdoor-walk duration and other requirements; this page alone is not a replacement.

Safety & community helpers

Guide Pawsie to Safety!

WORKBOOK P. 6 | 8-12 MIN

PURPOSE

Use a maze to introduce a family pet evacuation plan and adult-directed safety decisions.

LEAD IT

Let Scouts trace the illustrated route with a finger or pencil, from Pawsie to the safe spot. Then discuss what a real family would prepare: carrier, emergency contacts, pet ID and a destination.

ASK SCOUTS

Who decides where your family and pet go during a storm?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

A parent or other responsible adult follows actual emergency directions. **The maze is a game:** do not suggest going outdoors or to a tent during severe weather.

Who Helps Animals?

WORKBOOK P. 7 | 10-12 MIN

PURPOSE

Meet the community helpers who work with animals and families.

LEAD IT

Have Scouts match helpers to jobs; then ask which people might help after a house fire and which help with ongoing pet care. Invite an approved guest speaker if available.

ASK SCOUTS

How do a veterinarian, firefighter, shelter worker and volunteer help in different ways?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Matching key: Veterinarian - treats sick or injured animals; Firefighter - responds to emergencies; Shelter worker - cares for animals needing homes; Volunteer - gives time to help the community.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

For Bear Paws for Action, add a specific discussion of a nonprofit's mission, donations and volunteers.

Helping families & planning kits

Helping After a Storm

WORKBOOK P. 8 | 12-15 MIN

PURPOSE

Understand respectful, needs-based help for a displaced family and its pets.

LEAD IT

Read the fictional scenario. Scouts check plausible needs and draw one safe way a troop could help. Emphasize that families choose what they need, and adults coordinate any outreach.

ASK SCOUTS

Why should we ask before collecting supplies or promising to deliver something?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

All four listed needs may apply. Never self-deploy to a disaster; a request for assistance does not guarantee service.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Pair this with a supervised thank-you card or needs-verified service project (see p. 11 of this guide).

Pack a Pet Rescue Kit

WORKBOOK P. 9 | 10-15 MIN

PURPOSE

Turn the earlier sorting exercise into a practical household preparedness checklist.

LEAD IT

Scouts mark suitable items and identify the item that does not belong. Invite them to ask a parent where their pet supplies and carrier are kept. Demonstrate an empty tote if available.

ASK SCOUTS

Which supplies are used every day, and which help when a family must leave quickly?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Check: water, pet food, collar and leash, blanket, pet first-aid supplies, treats, familiar toy, waste bags or litter supplies, and carrier when appropriate. **Circle:** human fast food. Include medication and records only as directed by adults and the pet's veterinarian.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

A completed worksheet is preparation learning, not a packed physical kit or actual service project.

Kindness & safe choices

Kindness Makes a Difference

WORKBOOK P. 10 | 10-15 MIN

PURPOSE

Convert empathy into a realistic service idea that fits the children's age.

LEAD IT

Each Scout chooses three kind actions. As a group, select one project only after an adult checks what the receiving group actually needs. Write the project and leader follow-up.

ASK SCOUTS

What would be useful to the animal group, and how can we know for sure?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

A plan is useful practice; an official service-project requirement generally needs a real project to be completed and documented.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

Possible projects: supervised thank-you notes, a safety poster display, approved donation sorting, or a requested collection drive.

Safe or Unsafe?

WORKBOOK P. 11 | 10-12 MIN

PURPOSE

Build safe habits around unknown animals, hazards and emergencies.

LEAD IT

Read each statement aloud. Scouts circle SAFE or UNSAFE, then explain their reasoning in their own words. Encourage discussion rather than speed.

ASK SCOUTS

What should you do if you see a scared pet near a fire or other danger?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Answer key: 1 Safe; 2 Unsafe (chocolate); 3 Unsafe (never re-enter); 4 Safe (ID); 5 Safe (handwashing); 6 Unsafe (frightened wild animal). Adults contact emergency services for urgent danger.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

No child should handle an unfamiliar or distressed animal as part of this lesson.

Color, reflect & recognize

Dart & Pawsie Coloring Page

WORKBOOK P. 12 | 8-15 MIN

PURPOSE

Reinforce friendly pet preparedness concepts through creative expression.

LEAD IT

Scouts color the scene and point out the items they recognize. Invite younger children to tell a story about how the pets are helped. Give another activity option for children who do not want to color.

ASK SCOUTS

What three things in the picture could make a pet safer or more comfortable?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Accept appropriate responses such as food, water, shelter, a carrier and adult help. This is a creative activity, not a test.

My Animal Hero Promise

WORKBOOK P. 13 | 5-10 MIN

PURPOSE

Help Scouts retain one animal-care fact, one safety practice and one service intention.

LEAD IT

Use the reflection lines as conversation starters. Younger children can dictate an answer or draw; older children can write independently. Invite Scouts to share voluntarily.

ASK SCOUTS

What is the most important thing you will remember after today?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

Answers are personal and do not need to match the leader's wording. No child is required to share a personal experience.

Participation Certificate

WORKBOOK P. 14 | 2-4 MIN

PURPOSE

Celebrate learning without suggesting automatic badge completion.

LEAD IT

Write each child's name, add the date, and have a leader sign. Recognize participation whether or not a Scout has a pet or completes every optional page.

ASK SCOUTS

Which activity was your favorite, and what would you like to try next?

ANSWER / FACILITATOR NOTE

This is a **PAWS DART participation certificate**, not an official Cub Scout Adventure or Girl Scout badge.

Cub Scout connection guide

These are educational connections, not automatic advancement. Check current Scouting America wording and complete remaining requirements separately.

WHERE THE WORKBOOK CAN HELP

LEVEL	POSSIBLE CONNECTION	STILL TO CHECK / COMPLETE
TIGER 1st grade	**Tigers in the Wild:** P. 3 (draw favorite animal), p. 5 (observe local animals).	Also identify wild vs. domestic animals. The separate 20-minute outdoor walk, Six Essentials, Outdoor Code and tree work still apply.
WOLF 2nd grade	**Paws on the Path:** P. 5 can record animal observations. **Council Fire:** P. 10 can help plan a service project.	Paws on the Path needs its actual 30-minute walk and descriptions of 4 animals, plus other steps. Council Fire needs completed service and an explanation, along with its other requirements.
BEAR 3rd grade	**Critter Care:** P. 3 supports selecting and researching a pet. **Paws for Action:** Pp. 7-10 can support nonprofit and service discussions.	Critter Care also includes comparing 2 pets and identifying 3 ways pets help people. Paws for Action includes nonprofit mission/funding/volunteers, actual service and separate flag/symbol work.
WEBELOS 4th grade	**My Community:** Pp. 8, 10 support ideas for a service project.	Complete the actual service and the separate voting, elected-official and federal-law requirements.

Advancement rule: A drawing, planning discussion, or worksheet does not stand in for a required completed walk, verified nonprofit learning, or actual service project. Record only the elements Scouts really completed.

Brownie badge connections

Girl Scouts of the USA offers the official steps through its Volunteer Toolkit and current badge materials. This guide supplements that program.

BROWNIE PETS

BADGE THEME	WORKBOOK CONNECTION / EXTENSION
Step 1: Different pets	P. 3: identify and compare needs; invite a pet-care expert or consult reliable references.
Step 2: Keep pets comfy	Pp. 3, 9: discuss bedding, safe housing, comfort items and a carrier.
Step 3: Healthy and safe	Pp. 4, 11: review clean water, safety, ID and appropriate veterinary care.
Step 4: Feel loved	P. 10: kindness ideas and how to respect an animal's boundaries.
Step 5: Feed a pet	Pp. 3, 9: learn that foods and quantities differ by species; actual feeding only if permitted and adult-supervised.

BROWNIE PHILANTHROPIST

P. 4 (supply needs versus nonessential items), p. 8 (respond to what a family requests), and p. 10 (choose helpful service) can support discussions of **needs, wants and giving**. Girl Scouts publishes a needs-versus-wants activity adapted from Step 2; use the Volunteer Toolkit for the other current badge steps.

PAWS DART NONPROFIT TALKING POINTS

Mission: PAWS DART helps pet-owning families during disasters. **Resources:** Community donations, sponsors and volunteers support the work. **Role of a Scout:** Learn, share pet-safety information, and help with an adult-approved project. Avoid promising that PAWS DART can provide a specific service to every family.

Important: The activities do not, by themselves, complete all requirements for either Brownie badge. Leaders must verify each step in their current Girl Scout materials before reporting badge completion.

Safety, access & service

SAFETY RULES FOR LEADERS

- **Supervision:** Follow your organization's current youth-protection, permission, ratio, transportation and medical requirements.

- **Animal contact:** Use illustrations or photos. No required touching, handling, feeding or transporting of animals. Never approach injured, frightened or unfamiliar animals or wildlife.

- **Emergencies:** Leave dangerous areas, follow public safety officials and call 911 for immediate danger. Children never return to a burning or unsafe building.

- **Food and medicine:** Do not distribute opened/damaged food at a youth activity; accept donations only if the recipient has approved them. Keep any medication under adult control.

- **Accessibility:** Offer drawing, speaking, writing, pointing or partner responses. Provide a seated indoor observation alternative to a walk.

OPTIONAL 15-MINUTE RESCUE-KIT DEMONSTRATION

1. (3 min) Show an empty tote and ask: "What does a pet need for three days?" **2. (5 min)** Let Scouts identify clean sample items: bowl, water, suitable food, collar/leash, blanket, toy, sanitation supplies. **3. (4 min)** Discuss adult-held records, medication instructions and safe transport. **4. (3 min)** Invite Scouts to explain one thing they learned.

OPTIONAL 30-MINUTE SERVICE PROJECT

Before: Contact the receiving organization and confirm current needs, item condition rules and delivery arrangements. **Meeting:** 5 min explain need; 10 min count/sort approved items; 10 min make cards or labels; 5 min reflect. **After:** Adults deliver, document outcome and report what the Scouts actually did. Participation must follow Scout program rules.

Never send children into a disaster scene. Service projects should be organized with verified partners and adults, not through unsupervised field response.

Leader record & reference links

MEETING RECORD

Unit / den / troop: _____

Leader and contact: _____

Meeting date and location: _____

Number of Scouts present: _____

WORKBOOK PAGES USED

☐ P. 2 ☐ P. 3 ☐ P. 4 ☐ P. 5 ☐ P. 6 ☐ P. 7

☐ P. 8 ☐ P. 9 ☐ P. 10 ☐ P. 11 ☐ P. 12 ☐ P. 13

☐ P. 14

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE MEETING?

Verified service completed (if any): _____

Advancement checked against official requirements: _____

Feedback from Scouts / leader: _____

Follow-up or next meeting idea: _____

OFFICIAL REFERENCES

Scouting America - Cub Scout Adventures
scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/adventures/

Scouting America - Bear Critter Care
scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/critter-care/

Scouting America - Bear Paws for Action
scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/paws-for-action/

Girl Scouts - Brownie Pets badge activity
girlscouts.org/en/activities-for-girls/brownies/brownie-pets-badge-activity.html

Girl Scouts - Brownie Philanthropist activity
girlscouts.org / Activities for Girls / Brownies / Philanthropist

Prepared for PAWS DART. Badge names belong to their respective organizations. This is an independent educational resource, not an official Scouting America or Girl Scouts publication. Current requirements should be checked before use.