

# Cadette Animal Helpers Badge



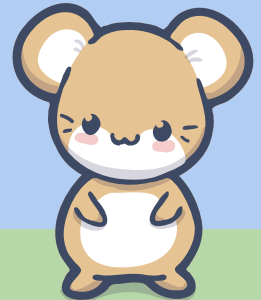
# Hello!

## Are you ready to begin earning your Animal Helpers Badge?

Animals help humans in many ways including helping those with disabilities, people who are lost, and even helping to diagnose medical conditions.

There are 5 steps to earning this badge:

- Explore the connection between humans and animals
- Find out how animals keep people safe
- Know how animals help people emotionally
- Check out how animals help people with disabilities
- Look at how animals might help us in the future



# Resources to help you earn this badge:

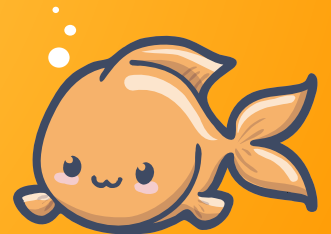
- Organizations that train assistance animals
- Animal Shelters
- Veterinary Offices
- Nature Centers and Zoos <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4JrYvfxstuXjsmR1pa9h8A/videos>
- Dog Training facilities
- Wildlife rehabilitation or exploration centers [https://youtu.be/BcqLTZUHt\\_s](https://youtu.be/BcqLTZUHt_s)





# A Day at the Humane Society

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAlHvtuniFY>



## Step 1: Explore the connection between humans and animals

**Find out how views of animals have changed over the centuries.**

People used to think that animals had no feelings. Do some research to find 10 human-animal connections that have changed over time.

**OR**

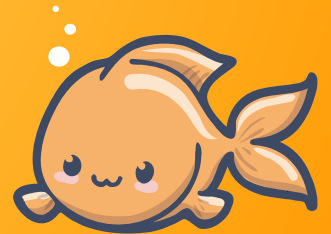
**Watch some documentaries about the human-animal connection and how it is changing.**

Some animals like dogs and cows are treated differently in other parts of the world. Why do think this is?





How did dogs  
become our  
pets?



<https://youtu.be/WR16wyrADo8>

## Step 2: Find out how animals keep people safe

Animals are often credited for keeping people safe. Canine units are used by fire departments to find victims and police use dogs and other animals to search out drugs, bombs, and unexploded mines. Animals are also used to find survivors in disaster situations.

Try one of these activities:

**Read some stories about real animal heroes.** Share the stories you find with others in your family or troop.

**OR**

**Learn about a safety team that uses animals.**

How are they used? How are they trained? Do the humans working with them need special skills?





# Animal Jobs

Animal  
Helpers!

<https://youtu.be/hCjQL9sBSQA>





## Step 3: Know how animals help people emotionally

Animals can improve our moods. Being around animals can help reduce stress in humans. It can lower high blood pressure and make us feel happier.

**Research an organization that uses animals to help people emotionally.** Some organizations bring pets to senior centers, others provide horse-riding programs to those with special needs. Find out what kinds of programs there are, how the animals and the volunteers need to be trained.

OR

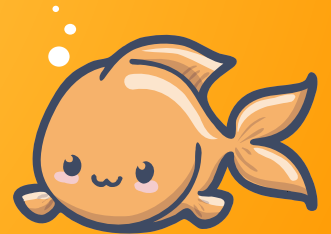
**Interview 5 pet owners.** Ask questions about pets and how they make them feel. Collect their stories, and with permission, share these stories with others.





# Animal Therapy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioXOVjfXnMU>



## Step 4: Check out how animals help people with disabilities

Most of us know about how Seeing Eye dogs help the visually impaired to live safe and independent lives. What other animals can be trained as service animals and what kinds of problems can they help people with?

**Research the pros and cons of training a assistance animals.** Find out information about assistance animals and their training. Some people question why certain animals are selected. What do you think?

Here are just a few pf the Assistance Animal Organizations:

Autism Dog Services  
Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Comprehensive Pet Therapy  
Delta Society  
Paws with a Cause

Puppies Behind bars, Inc.  
Assistance Dogs International  
NEADS (Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans  
Guide Horse Association  
Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers for the Disabled



## Step 5: Look at how animals might help us in the future

Scientists are working to find new ways to use the special skills of animals

Try one of these activities:

**Get a sense of different animals' skills and abilities.** Rats have a great sense of smell, while pigeons have amazing eyesight, and goldfish can detect pollution in our waterways. Research and make a chart about the unique senses and abilities of 5 different animals. How do they compare with humans? Think of some new ways that animals can use their unique qualities in the future.

OR

**Practice Being a Scientist.** Observe and take notes on animal behavior. You can observe your pets or animals you see in your yard or parks. Notice details about when and where you see them, how they move, what they eat, how they react to humans, etc. Keep this log for a whole week and then look back on your notes to draw conclusions.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8WsyXDC9MQ>

# Congratulations!

You have earned your  
**Animal Helpers Badge!**

The Cadette Animal Helpers badge can be  
purchased through our  
[GSWNY Council Shop](#).



# Questions?

Contact:

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or

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