

Girl Scouting at Home

DO IT!

Girl Scout Senior Voice for Animals Badge



Instructions: Complete all five steps to earn your Senior Voice for Animals badge.

1. Find out about domestic animals

(Pick one to do)

Primitive cultures only kept dogs around to scare off intruders and eat the scraps. Eventually, humans began caring for animals for pets. How are pets treated today?

- A. Research what a domestic animal is. Then pick four domestic animals and write five facts that you learned about them.
- B. Research the adoption process for getting a domestic animal of your choice. Will it cost you money? Do you get the animal immediately? What supplies will you need for your animal? What are you going to name your animal?

2. Investigate animals used for science

(Pick one to do)

Whether animals should be used for product and medical testing is a controversial issue. What animals are most likely to be used in test? Are any protected by the Animal Welfare Act?

- A. Research the arguments for and against animal testing. Write out at least 10 reasons in favor and against testing. Have your family join in, ask what their perspectives are.
- B. Research 2 different ways animals are used in science today. Think of ways to do the science without the animals. Are there alternative ways? If so, what ways? If not, what could scientist do instead?

3. Explore animals in husbandry

(Pick one to do)

Husbandry is the practice of breeding and raising farm animals intended to be used for food. Cows, chicken, lamb and pigs all come under this category.

- A. What is a ranch? Are there any ranches in Long Island? In New York state? What sort of ranch are they and what products do they produce? What is a rancher and what sorts of things do they do on a ranch?

- B. Look into domestic pet breeding. Find out what's involved in responsible pet breeding. What testing is done before breeding two parents? How do they choose homes for their animals? Look up what a breeder does and if there are local breeders in your town. Share what you find out.

4. Take a look at animals used for sports and entertainment

(Pick one to do)

Animals are part of our sport and entertainment culture. Worldwide there are spectator activities that involve animals can you think of any?

- A. What sort of training does an animal go through to be in entertainment? Whether it's an elephant in the circus or a tiger in a movie. How are the animals chosen for their roles?
- B. What sports involve animals? Explore how the owners and handlers care for the animals? What does someone have to do to get their animal involved in sports?

5. Look into an animal issue

(Pick one to do)

Choose an issue and find out more.

- A. Research an animal issue, such testing products on animals, animal cruelty, animals being hunted, etc. Create a public service announcement (PSA) to share your thoughts on the issue.
- B. Research an animal advocate and what their message is. Do you agree? Disagree? Express how you feel and share both sides with your family.

Congratulations!

Badges are available for sale at the GSNC shop when we reopen.