

CHS Scout Program

Furry Friends

cthumane.org





Dear Girl Scout and Boy Scout leaders,

Thank you for your interest in the Connecticut Humane Society's Patch program for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts! Our goal is to provide humane education to the youth of Connecticut. The Patch program plays a major role in achieving this by teaching youth about pets. This program offers three different patch opportunities for youth in grades K-12. There are three categories of activities for each patch: Discovery, Service for Pets, and Connecting with the Connecticut Humane Society. The majority of the activities can take place at your meetings. Once all of the requirements have been met, please contact our Community Outreach Manager, Ashley Holm at outreach@cthumane.org to set up an interactive program or a tour to complete the final requirement of the patch. After the program or tour, you will be able to purchase the Animal Advocates patch for each member of your group that has completed the program. A detailed description of the patch requirements can be found below. Please read through all of the requirements and activities; if you have any questions about the process please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you again for your interest in the Patch program for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts! We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ashley Holm, Zoe Picanso, and Hannah Mirlis

CHS Community Outreach Team



Furry Friends Description

Each member who would like to achieve this patch should complete and participate in all of the tasks and activities outlined in the following description. Once all of the tasks have been completed please contact us to set up an interactive program or tour. This program operates on a good faith. This means we do not require proof that each member has completed their requirements, instead we trust that leaders will do so.

Recommended Grade Level: 2nd - 5th

Cost: Patches are \$5 each

Choose one:

An interactive program is a \$50 program fee.

A tour is a \$50 fee per group (up to 15 people in person and 40 people virtually).

Patch Design:



Discovery

Complete the following activities as a group.

1. Discuss what pets each child has at home. What do their pets need to be happy and healthy? How do they help take care of their pet?
 - Complete the “Pet Care” crossword.
2. Discover how pets communicate with people and each other by completing the “Pet Behavior” activity.
3. Participate in the “Pet Interaction” activity to expand your understanding of how to safely greet and interact with dogs.

Service for Pets

As a group please participate in a service activity for the pets at CHS. All donations may be dropped off at the Newington, Waterford, or Westport location. Wish lists can be found at CThumane.org. Below are a few suggestions to get your group started.

- Hold a supply drive for the items on the general wish list.
 - Organize a pet food drive for the CHS Pet Food Pantry.
 - Host an online collection drive using the CHS Amazon Wish list.
- Participants can ship their items directly to one of the CHS locations.

Connecting with the Connecticut Humane Society

Once you have completed all of the other requirements, there are two options for completing the patch (*please choose one*):

1. Schedule a time for a CHS humane educator to come lead an interactive program for your troop. These programs are capped at 35 participants, if your group has more members please contact outreach@cthumane.org.

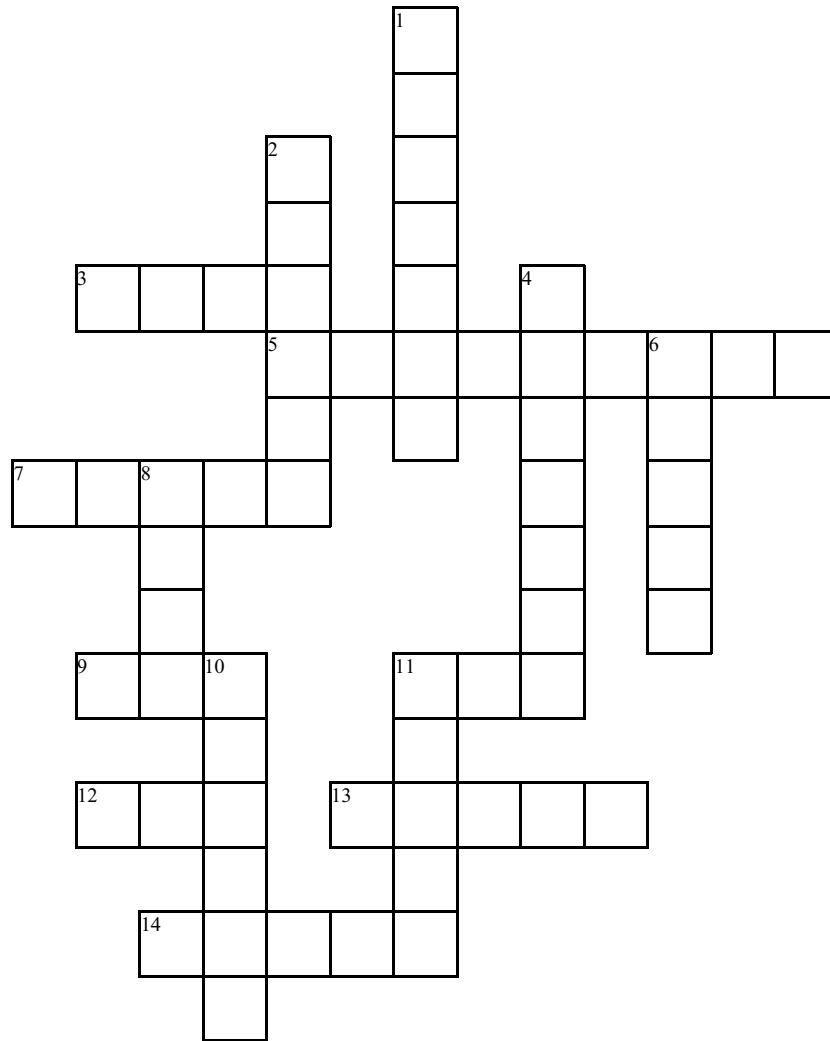
Program Options

- PaCK: Pets and Caring Kids The group will learn how to keep pets happy and healthy.
- The Safety PAWtrol: This program will teach participants about dog body language and how to safely interact with dogs.
- Kind Kids: Explore the importance of being kind and compassionate towards pets and people.

There is a program fee \$50.

2. Book a behind the scenes tour at one of the three Connecticut Humane Society's Pet Wellness and Adoption Centers: Newington, Waterford, or Westport. Tours must run during the day, with the last tour beginning at 4pm. Tours can accommodate up to 15 people in person or 40 people virtually, if your group has more members please contact outreach@cthumane.org. The cost of a tour is a \$50 fee.

Pet Care Crossword



Across

3. Hamsters can roll around in this for exercise.
5. Cats need to be trained to go to the bathroom in a _____.
7. Cats and dogs need fresh _____ each day.
9. Always _____ before petting a new dog.
11. Dogs and cats should have their own _____ to sleep on.
12. Never leave your pets alone in the car on a _____ day.
13. A young dog.
14. Always walk your dog on a _____.

Down

1. Rabbits love to snack on this orange vegetable.
2. Dogs and cats should wear a _____ with ID tags.
4. Cats and dogs need to eat _____ every day.
6. Another name for a rabbit.
8. Pets should have plenty of _____ to play with.
10. A young cat.
11. You should do this to your pets fur every day.

Pet Behavior Activity

Directions: Describe how each pet is feeling. What is the dog or cat doing to show you that? For example, what are their ears or tail doing? Should you approach & pet that pet?







Pet Behavior Activity









Pet Interaction Activity- Leader Guide

Instructions: This is a leader led activity that will take about 45 minutes. At the end of this activity the scouts should understand how to properly approach and pet a dog. They will also know how to determine if a dog wants to be pet based its body language.

Materials needed:

- Meeting room large enough for scouts to break off into pairs and perform skits
- Toy plush dogs (optional) with leash and collar (also optional)



Part one:

Have the scouts break into pairs, one scout will be the dog owner (walking their imaginary or plush dog) and the other will be the person who would like to pet the dog. You can have them decide amongst themselves who plays which role or you can assign the roles. **Note for larger groups scouts may break into groups of 4, two being the owners and 2 being those who want to pet the dog.*

Tell the scouts to perform a skit with each other. Have the scouts who want to pet the dog act out how they would approach the dog and its' owners.

Allow the scouts to act out this meeting however they want. Allow them to plan and preform the skit for about 15 minutes.

Part two:

After the skits have been performed have a discussion with the group about what they did when meeting the dog. Have one or two groups present their skit to the group.

Then ask some follow up questions: Below are some examples of the questions you can ask.

Those who wanted to pet the dog

- Did you ask the owner any questions?
- What questions did you ask the owner?

Pet Interaction Activity- Leader Guide

If you didn't ask questions what do you think you could have asked?

- Follow-up by asking why?
 - Some examples of questions they should have asked are: Is your dog friendly? May I pet your dog?

Then ask the troop: What are the two questions you need to ask the owner before petting their dog?

1. Is your dog friendly?
2. May I pet your dog?

Ask the troop: There is one final step to take before petting the dog...what do you think it could be? **Answer: They need to ask the dog if he or she wants to be pet.**

Part three:

After introducing the idea that they should also ask the dog if he or she wants to be pet, ask the scouts if they know how to tell if a dog wants to be pet.

Some good answers: wagging tail (explain that a slow wag is a nervous dog but a happy fast wag is good), approaching you/rubbing on you, acting excited, etc.

Then ask how they would know if the dog didn't want to be pet.

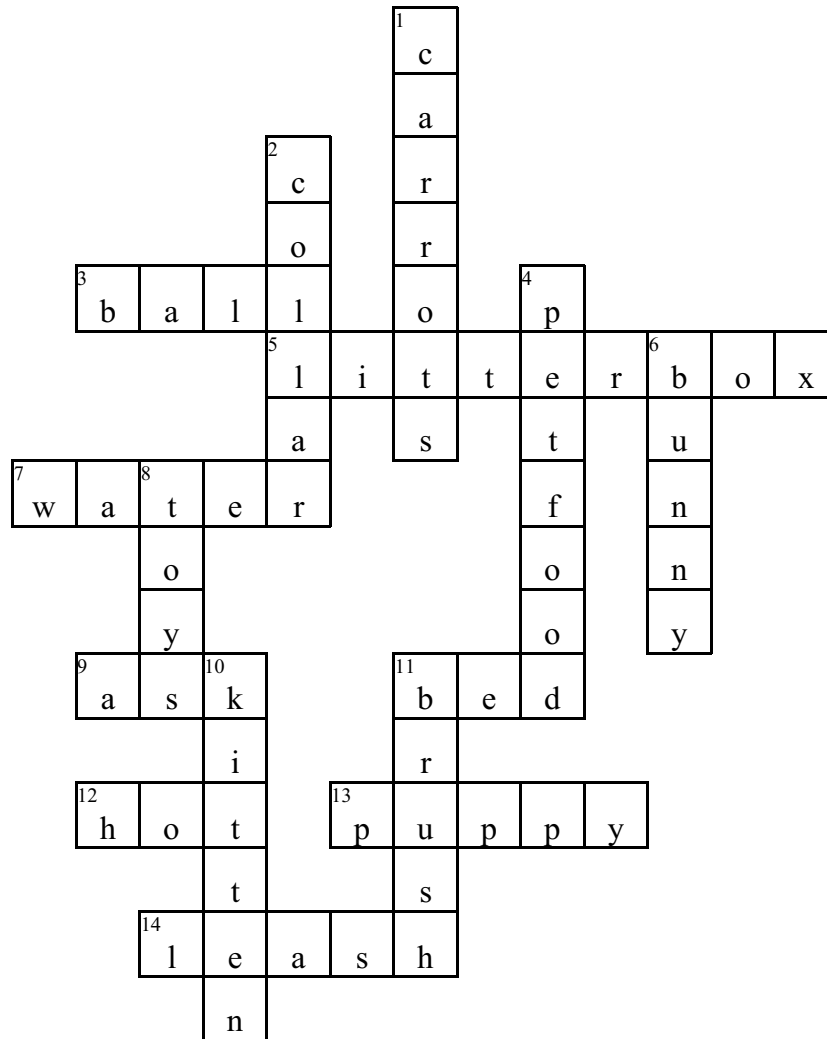
Some good answers: showing teeth, growling, backing away, barking, snapping/trying to bite, tail tucked between legs, slow wagging tail, showing whites of their eyes.

Wrap-up:

Ask the scouts what they learned about approaching a new dog and how they would change their skits from the beginning of the activity.



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Across

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7. Cats and dogs need fresh _____ each day.
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11. Dogs and cats should have their own _____ to sleep on.
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Pet Behavior Activity

Directions: Describe how each pet is feeling. What is the dog or cat doing to show you that? For example, what are their ears or tail doing? Should you approach & pet that pet?

Answer Key



This dog is friendly and wants you to rub his belly. He is feeling playful. His mouth is closed, but relaxed. You can pet this dog.



This dog is anxious and nervous. He has his ears pinned back and his tail tucked between his legs, these are both signs that he is nervous. You can also see the whites of his eyes, this is called “whale eye”. When you can see the whites of a dog’s eyes it is a sign that the dog is anxious. You should give this dog space and not try to pet him.



This dog is angry. Her lips are tight and pulled back. You can see her teeth and her gums. This is a sign of anger. She is lunging forward to scare away what is in front of her. This dog will likely bite you if you try to pet her. Do not approach this dog.

Pet Behavior Activity

Answer Key



This cat is nervous and scared. She is hiding behind the towel to feel safe. Her eyes are wide and she is staring at what is in front of her. You should not pet this cat because she may bite or scratch you.



This cat is asleep. It is hard to tell how he feels about you petting him because he doesn't know you are there. It is best not to pet a cat when it is sleeping. You do not want to scare them; you may get bitten or scratched.



This cat is angry and scared. His ears are pinned back; this is a sign he is angry. He is crouching backward away from you, this is another sign he is mad and scared. His eyes are big and you can see the whites of his eyes, this is his way of showing fear. Do not try and pet this cat.



This cat is curious. You know this because her head is tilted to the side. The question mark shape of her tail is a telling sign that she is curious about you. You should slowly approach and pet her as long as she remains interested and friendly.



**The Connecticut Humane Society is
the leading resource in the state for
companion animal welfare,
enriching the lives of families and
communities through adoption
services, medical care, education,
and prevention of cruelty.**

1-800-452-0114

cthumane.org

Newington Waterford Westport Fox Memorial Clinic

