

Criteria for earning the Dog Care and Maintenance badge

Dog Care badge:

The purpose of this badge is to better educate owners about proper and complete care for their dog and ways to prevent illness and injury.

Dog Requirements:

Dog will allow handling of feet and will allow fur and nail trimming by handler.

Clipping of the fur with scissors or clippers needs to be shown along with the trimming of the nails on at least one foot by at least one of the methods listed.

Dog will accept having its head, muzzle, and ears handled by the handler.

This should include a quick exam of these body parts.

Dog will accept being combed and brushed by the handler, and by a stranger. This doesn't have to last very long, but long enough that the dog will show he isn't stressed out or bothered by it.

Dog will accept the handler brushing teeth and examining mouth. This should be done with an appropriate toothbrush and if available, doggie toothpaste (never use human toothpaste!) handler should be able to lift the flews on both sides of the dog's mouth and look at the teeth with the mouth closed as well as being able to open the dog's mouth and look inside.

Dog is licensed or registered in the county where pet parent lives. Showing the up-to-date county tag is sufficient.

Handler requirements:

Handler can tell evaluator which shots are recommended and required for his or her dog and when they should be given. Handler has an understanding of parasites, what they do to dogs, and how to prevent and remove them by explaining this to the evaluator. Handler can communicate an understanding of what it means to provide proper nutrition for his or her dog, and knows what edibles are not good for dogs. Handler can name at least three good reasons for keeping the hair between pads of feet trimmed.

The above items can all be covered verbally on the video or if tested in person or put in writing in the handler's own words (without using word for word copying or copy/paste) if testing by video. This can be in an attachment or the body of an email to the evaluator if testing by video.

Handler will demonstrate how to clean dog's eyes, ears, teeth and anal sacs

The handler should have wipes or a clean damp cloth to clean the eyes, a proper ear cleaning solution and discuss plucking if done with your breed for the ears. Also talk about how deep to clean and why. Handler can demo brushing the dog's teeth and talk about why that would be done. Handler can explain where the anal sacs are located and how to find them, what supplies would be used to express them and demo with the supplies and hand motion. The expression of the sacs can be simulated, but it should show everything that WOULD be done/used as close as possible to actually doing it.

Handler knows how to clip, file, and dremel dog's toenails and will demonstrate that understanding by doing it or by simulation.

The handler needs to demonstrate actually clipping the nails on at least one of the dog's feet with one of the listed methods. The others can be simulated and explained well enough to show an understanding of how to properly and safely use the tools (nail clippers, an emery board or other flat file and a power sanding tool). Handler should articulate how short they can go with each tool and why.

Handler knows which grooming tools are best for his or her dog, and can show how to use them properly.

Handler shows what grooming supplies they have for their dog and demonstrates how each is used and why each was selected.

For video submissions: All of the above should be shown on the video.

Evaluator certification: video needs to show the future evaluator giving a lecture type session in which the items discussed in the badge check off are covered in detail, with demo where appropriate. Then show at least one dog/handler team being asked to perform all of the badge requirements including the verbal quiz of handler knowledge. This should be done in the same way as you plan to do the testing when a video camera is not involved.