



Dog Scouts of America
Merit Badge Check-Off Sheet

Animal Actor

Items **bolded** below are requirements that must be demonstrated to the Evaluator. Non-bolded items are training steps that may be introduced in class and are helpful for achieving the requirements. All behaviors must have been taught or re-taught to the dog (preferably using a new cue), using only positive reward-based methods.

- Handler must incorporate behaviors learned/proofed for this badge into a “commercial” or “short feature” of around 5 minutes in length. Video must include a story line, different camera angles, music, voice overs and on-screen text/graphics and must clearly show that the handler understands and can work in a video editing program. The video must represent the work of the handler**
- Dog is comfortable working around other animals and humans and with at least several people watching and one unrelated animal nearby**
- Dog can hit his mark or target on the floor and with the mark on an elevated surface (like a cabinet or wall). Target can be small visual cue like a chalk mark or piece of tape, or it can be a scent rubbed on the surface. If using scent- handler needs to show where the scent was placed before the commercial and then the dog needs to demonstrate an understanding of what the scent means (show training steps) and dog will get to the spot without appearing to be trying to sniff out the scent**
- Dog must perform a minimum of 5 behaviors (use the Tricks 101 list for ideas) on cue and at a distance of approximately 6’ (off camera). Behaviors can be cued silently or audibly, but not loudly. Handler must demonstrate an understanding of how to “make him/herself inaudible and invisible” to a camera just as if the dog was working an actual acting job**
- Handler can send dog to his mark silently from a distance of at least 12’. Dog must stay at his mark, either sitting or standing until given a release cue**
- Dog will give sustained eye contact and focus with another person/actor that is touching the dog (cued eye contact is ok)**
- Dog can retrieve at least 4 different and unusual household items with different compositions such as paper, wood, plastic, cloth, rubber, leather, metal, etc. or any combination there-of. Dog must retrieve the selected items from a distance of at least 6’ and deliver the items to a person/actor and/or a target location. Dog toys and obedience dumbbells do not count as "unusual" or "household"**
- Dog can perform all of the above off leash without worry of running away or getting into things he shouldn’t**