**K9 NutritionBadge**

**Guidelines for Badge Requirements/Scout Evaluators**

**K9 Nutrition**

This badge shows that the handler understands the complexities of canine nutrition, strives to always feed the dog the best possible diet based on the individual needs of the dog, and demonstrates a commitment to proper nutrition through community education. This badge does require a significant time requirement and may not be suited for all handlers and dogs.

**Dog Requirements:** The dog must be a normal, healthy weight for its breed and size. If there is a medical reason why the dog cannot maintain a normal weight documentation from a licensed veterinarian must be submitted. The dog must demonstrate a willingness to step onto a veterinary scale and remain still so that it's weight can be measured. The dog must also play an active roll in collecting food and/or money to be donated to a qualified shelter or rescue organization. The dog must also play an active roll in community education, demonstrating as appropriate and displaying proper manners at all time.

**Owner Requirements:** The handler must know the dog’s specific dietary needs and proper weight, and works with his/her veterinarian to determine what the dog should eat. The handler must be able to describe the dog’s diet in detail and keeps a record of the dog’s weight over time. A weight log documenting the dog's weight must be submitted, including a baseline measurement and 3 additional weights throughout the year. Most veterinarians provide weight measurements in a graph format on request. Weights do not have to be accompanied by a physical examination, but must be documented either in the dog’s medical record or in a legitimate weight log.

In most cases the dog will need to be video taped to demonstrate willingness to step on a scale and remain still as quiet while its weight is measured. If an evaluator is available this requirement can be evaluated in person.

**Community Service Requirements:** Part of demonstrating a commitment to proper canine nutrition involves public education. For that reason there are two community service requirements.

1. A food drive must contain at least 2 of the 3 elements below:
* Collecting dog food to be delivered to a qualifying shelter or rescue organization. A minimum of 100 pounds of food must be collected and the process must include an element of education on healthy nutrition and/or weight management.
* Collecting money that will be donated to a qualifying shelter or rescue organization with the understanding that it will be used only for food. A minimum of $100 must be collected and the process must include an element of education on healthy nutrition and/or weight management.
* Spending a minimum of 10 hours doing some form of community education while conducting one of the above activities.
1. An additional 2 hours of public education which might include a booth or table at a community event or a presentation to a group of at least 10 people. This group might be a Girl or Boy Scout troop, a dog club, dog daycare or grooming clients, etc. A YouTube presentation (or other social media platform) would also satisfy this requirement provided the viewership can be clearly documented. The dog must have some role in this effort which could include demonstrating for a presentation or booth, doing a food related trick to capture attention, etc. Time spent in preparation, within reason should be counted toward fulfilling this requirement regardless of the format used for presentation. As an example, this requirement might be satisfied by doing a 30 in person presentation to a group and a YouTube presentation when the prep time is included. Similarly, a 30 minute in person presentation at a local dog daycare and a booth focused on canine nutrition at a community event would also qualify.

**Documentation:** This badge does require specific documentation be submitted in order to meet the requirements. This includes the following:

* A statement from a licensed veterinarian if the dog is over/under weight providing diagnosis of a medical condition if the dog is unable to maintain a normal, healthy weight.
* A weight log showing a baseline weight and an additional 3 weights throughout the course of a year.
* Video evidence of the dog's willingness to step onto a veterinary scale and remain still so that a weight can be measured.
* Evidence of a healthy food drive showing that at least 2 of the 3 elements outlined above. Evidence includes photographs, a receipt from the shelter or rescue organization when money is donated and/or a log of time spent doing public education while collecting food or money for donation. Photos must clearly show the dog’s involvement in the activities. The log must include detailed information such as the date, activity, location, hours spent, the dog's role and any other individuals involved. All activities for this requirement must be completed within 6 months.
* Evidence of public education that meets the established requirements including photographs, a program showing that the discussion took place, a link to a video with documented viewership, or a written statement from the organizations that are being supported through these activities. Evidence must clearly show the dog’s role in the activities that are completed.

Note: Hours spent doing community service may be logged for other community service badges simultaneously.