

What's Out There?

Animals



Some animals, like cats and dogs, live with us as pets. Other animals, like moose and bears, live in the wild. Explore the world of animals with this Try-It. *You must complete four of these activities to earn this Try-It.*

1. Caring for Pets

Many people have pets at home—dogs, cats, rabbits, parakeets, hamsters, or guinea pigs. Do you have a pet? If you love your pet, there are special ways to treat it. Take the Pet Pledge:

The Pet Pledge

I will always treat my pet with love & understanding. I will leave my pet alone when it is eating. I will not bother my pet when it is sleeping. I will always be gentle when touching my pet. I will make sure my pet gets exercise. I will make sure my pet has fresh food & water.

If you have a pet, help to take care of it for a few days. Along with a family member, feed it, brush it, walk it, give it fresh drinking water, or clean its litter box or cage. Don't forget to play with it gently, too! If you don't have a pet, pick an animal you would like to have. What does that animal need in order to stay healthy? Speak with someone who has that type of pet or go to a pet store that sells that type of animal and ask for other suggestions.

2. Understanding Animals

Visit a nature center, state park, or zoo. Find out how to enjoy wildlife in a safe way. Why is it best to watch wildlife from a distance? What are the differences between pets like dogs and cats and wild animals like squirrels and raccoons? Should you feed wild animals? What do you do if you find a baby bird that's fallen out of a nest or an animal that is hurt?

3. Creature Moves

Animals move in many different kinds of ways. Make the animal moves below. You can play music that reminds of how each kind of animal moves.

- *Rabbit Hop:* Bend your knees and jump forward.
- *Seal Slide:* Pull yourself forward with your hands at your side while dragging your body and feet. Bounce a little if you can.
- *Elephant Walk:* Bend forward. Extend your arms and place one hand over the other to form a trunk. Make sure that your fingers are pointing toward the ground. Move slowly with legs stiff and straight and your trunk swinging from side to side.
- *Crab Scuttle:* Sit on the floor with your hands behind you. Lift up your body with your hands and feet. Walk on all fours. Walk forward and backward quickly.

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- *Inchworm Crawl*: Place both hands on the floor. Try to keep your knees stiff and legs straight, but bend your knees if you have to. Walk forward with your hands as far as you can, and then walk forward with your feet to your hands.
- *Frog Jump*: Squat on the floor with hands in front of feet. Jump forward and land on both hands and feet.
- *Snake Slither*: Lie on the floor on your stomach. Keep your arms against the sides of your body. Move your body from side to side and try making an “S” shape.

4. **Looks Mean Something**

Animals are divided into groups by the kinds of bodies they have. Find animals that match the descriptions in the list that follows by observing them in a habitat (place where they live in nature) at the zoo, or in a book. How do their bodies affect the way they live?

- Animals that have 2 legs, 4 legs, 6 legs or 8 legs
- Animals with no legs.
- Animals that have fur.
- Animals with feathers.
- Animals with scales.
- Animals that have shells
- Animals with wings but no feathers.
- Animals with paws.
- Animals that have claws.
- Animals with flippers.
- Animals with hooves.

5. **Sounds Charades**

Animals communicate in many different ways. Some touch, some make noise, and some leave a smell. Play animal sounds charades. Have your friends or family guess which animal you are. Here are some animals to include:

Chicken	Cricket	Sea Lion
Lion	Elephant	Mouse
Parrot	Monkey	Sparrow
Fly	Horse	Cow
Frog	Rattlesnake	Owl
Alligator	Cat	Donkey

Write the name of each animal on a piece of paper. Put the pieces of paper in a bag and shake well. Pull out an animal name. Don't tell anyone. Show the others who you are by sounding like that animal.

This badge can be found in the book *Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts*, page 86. This text has been reproduced with permission from Girl Scouts of the USA—this document may not be copied or reproduced in any way.