

## Earning the travel safety badge by video

This badge is intended to be a demonstration of how the owner ALWAYS travels with their dog, whether it is on a long trip or just a few blocks. This badge is not intended as a “one-time” demo of how it COULD be, but rather how it IS whenever the dog is in the vehicle. The travel safety badge was developed because DSA cares about you and your dog and wants you both to be safe when on the road. It is intended to be a badge earned because of long term use of the safety skills and ideas required for this badge. If you are not routinely putting into practice the requirements of this badge, then perhaps this is not the badge for you. The info that accompanies this badge helps you understand why and how to make that happen.

The following are the items/actions that need to be shown on the video (in any order). Note that at least 1 helper plus a videographer that do not live with the dog are needed for item #7.

1. Dog has some form of visible ID (collar tags or tattoo). If dog is microchipped, include their chip number in the paperwork that accompanies the video.
  
2. Dog travelling in crate or accident rated seatbelt. It is preferred that you take a short drive (60 seconds of video is fine). BE SURE it is the PASSENGER that is holding the camera and NOT the driver!! Video taken by the driver of a moving vehicle will not be accepted as passing. The evaluator needs to see the dog(s) will ride quietly and safely. Also needs to see the safety set-up (how seatbelt or crate is securely attached). If the owner routinely travels with multiple dogs, the arrangement for travelling with multiple dogs needs to be demonstrated in this part of the video.
  
3. Show where the first aid kit is always stored in the vehicle and the main items in the kit. Also verbalize a list of (or show) extra emergency items that you would add if you were travelling during cold weather or hot weather.
  
4. Show where the emergency papers are kept and the sign on the driver’s door that directs the emergency personnel to it. The pages of emergency info should be included on the video so the evaluator can see what info is ready and in place for the emergency personnel. At a minimum, there should be a driver’s info page and a page of emergency care info about the dog that has emergency contact names and numbers. See the suggested format that accompanies the travel safety badge info.
  
5. Verbalize what items will be included on your packing list and what pre-trip and on-site actions you would take if you were going to be staying at a hotel.
  
6. With the dog in its crate or harness in the car, show:
  - a) The owner opening the car door

b) Opening the crate door or unclipping the harness and cuing the dog to remain in the car.

c) The handler steps back out of the dog's path

d) Dog should stay in the car for about 5 seconds until the handler gives a release cue. The stay cue may be repeated, but the dog's path out of the vehicle should not be blocked (no hand or body in front of the dog).

7. For the called by a stranger, the vehicle may be parked in a fenced area as long as the area is large enough for the dog to feel like it's loose. The area does need to be outside and it is highly recommended that it be well away from any roads if not fenced. Look for warehouse areas that have perimeter fencing and ask the owner if you can use their property. Large yards that are fenced with the ability to drive into the yard may also be used (it is preferred that it not be the yard where the dog lives since the dog would know it is fully fenced and it's not an area that is new to the dog). The dog may drag its leash if the leash is not attached to a collar that can choke them and items that the leash might catch on are minimized as much as possible. Dogs should not be tested wearing choke chains for any Dog Scout badge.

a) Dog is in the vehicle with the door closed (vehicle can be running if weather is hot)

b) Handler will go out of sight and out of reach of the dog. This can be inside a building or another car, but dog should not see the handler once the handler is in place. NOTE: if there is more than one person present that lives with the dog or cares for the dog (including the person filming), they all must be out of sight during this exercise.

c) A helper (who may also be the videographer) will open the vehicle door and encourage the dog to exit. If the dog tries to return to the vehicle, the door can be closed once the dog is out. This helper MAY use treats or the dog's name if needed. If this helper is also the videographer, try your best to keep the camera steady and on the dog while also letting the dog out.

d) A second helper will position himself or herself between the vehicle and the location of the owner (most dogs will scent the owner's path or go to where they last saw the owner). This person will try to call the dog to come to him/her. The dog's name and/or treats or toys may NOT be used. If the dog does not come directly to the helper or if the dog is refusing to leave the side of the vehicle, the helper may go to the dog and try to get hold of the dog's collar. If the dog is "stuck" to the door where the owner went, the helper needs to be able to call the dog a few feet away from that area. It is recommended that once captured by the collar, the helper lead the dog to the owner.

Dogs that are loose without their owner in sight can act very unpredictably. If there is any sign of aggression, the dog does not pass and the helper should immediately back off and get the owner. Be especially careful when reaching for or holding the collar as this may be when some dogs show aggression out of fear because they feel trapped. Always having the helper take the dog to the owner during practice can help the dog understand the process and reduce fear. This way, the dog learns that the fastest way to find or get to the owner is to go to the person calling him.

**Paperwork to be included with the video:**

- Owner should write out IN THEIR OWN WORDS why they feel it is important to always travel with their dog secured, to always demonstrate responsible ownership (following the Dog Scout laws) and how they do this on a regular basis. Please print neatly or use a computer to print it out.
- Proof of having earned the 1<sup>st</sup> aid badge (copy of the top half of the badge form). Note that the bottom half needs to have been turned in to DSA or accompany the bottom half of the travel safety badge form to earn the Travel Safety badge.
- Travel Safety badge form with all lines filled in on the top and bottom halves (except Evaluator signature)
- Return addressed, stamped envelope so the evaluator can return the signed badge form to you. Once you get the form back, you can mail it to the Recognition Program Department (address is on the badge form) with the badge fee.