

UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

4-H, Youth and Family (includes home livestock)

Title

4-H Pets and Small Animals

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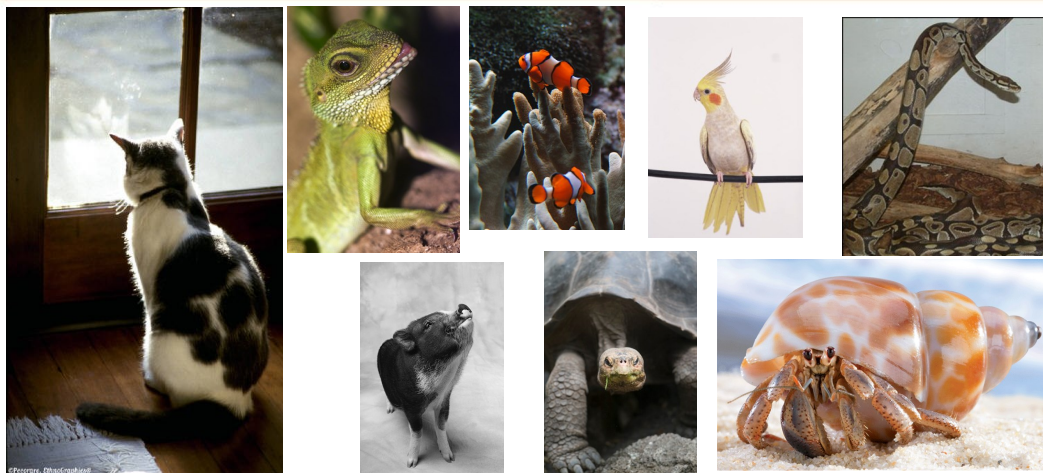
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4-H PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS



“Lions, Tigers, and Bears, oh my!” do not make good pets, but many other animals do. The 4-H Pets and Small Animals projects helps youth explore the wide variety of pets available. Youth will also learn about the types of pets that fit best into their family.

- Identify breeds and animal species and their characteristics.
- Learn about the selection, care, needs of pets, and basic principles of pet behavior.
- Demonstrate care and management in feeding, handling, grooming, and fitting/showing.
- Explore health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments.
- Learn and practice animal ownership responsibilities.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best pet for the member's family.
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding.
- Create a plan to prevent your pet from getting lost or finding it if it gets lost.
- Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Shop comparatively for setting up a vivarium (habitat) appropriate for your pet.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Plan a training and exercise program for your pet.
- Prepare for participation in a cat or pet show.
- Compare labels on pet food to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of your pet's health and eating habits.
- Take a Pet First Aid Class.
- Practice appropriate training for a pet.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Develop a business plan for a pet care or sitting business.
- Assess careers related to pets and pet business.
- Research diseases in pet mammals, birds, and fish.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action for a disease in your pet.
- Do a presentation on how pets affect the environment.
- Appreciate the contribution of scientific research to the welfare of pets and their use in research.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Research the nutritional needs of your animal(s) and compare to nutritional needs of humans and other animals.
- Create a poster on the anatomy of your animal and/or the difference between hot and cold blooded animals.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your pet.
- Discuss your pet's life expectancy and what to look for when they get older.
- Create a display or skit on safety rules concerning pets.

Citizenship

- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantaged individuals.
- Show/raise your animal(s) as a cultural exchange with other nations.
- Volunteer at an ASPCA Adoption Day at local pet stores.

Leadership

- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader.
- Help younger members learn about taking care of animals.
- Create a movement in your community for the adoption of rescue animals.

Resources

- Iowa 4-H Pets
www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/pets.htm
- Healthy Pets
www.cdc.gov/healthypets
vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns
www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp
- For Cat Fanciers
kids.cfa.org/
- Cats and Wildlife: a Conservation Dilemma
wildlife.wisc.edu/extension/catfly3.htm
- American Red Cross Pet First Aid/ CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- California State Fair
www.bigfun.org

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Presentation Days – Share what you've learned through a pet animal-related presentation.</p> <p>Field Days – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>County & State Fair - Enter your animal(s) or poster about your animal(s) and show the judge what you have learned! Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veterinarian's Way of Selecting a Proper Pet (4H 560A) • Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A) • Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B) • Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C) • Pet Leader Guide (4H 563 LDR) • Check out the ANR site for free downloadable curriculum - //anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu. 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</p> <p>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit http://ucanr.edu/orb/</p>



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