

# UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

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

### Title

4-H Reptile Project

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# 4-H REPTILE PROJECT



The 4-H reptiles project helps you explore what kind of reptile fits into your family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent caretaker of your lizards, snakes, turtles, or tortoises.

- Identify different reptile species and their characteristics.
- Learn about the selection, care, needs of reptiles, and basic principles of reptile 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.

## 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.

### Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best reptile for your family.
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your reptile.
- Create a plan to prevent your reptile from getting lost and/or finding it.
- Purchase and use appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Compare prices to shop for setting up a terrarium.

### Learning More *Intermediate*

- Prepare for participation in a reptile show.
- Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your reptile.
- Compare labels on reptile foods to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of your reptile's health and eating habits.
- Learn to identify parts of your reptile for conversations with your vet.
- Practice appropriate training for your reptile.

### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Develop a business plan for a reptile care or sitting business.
- Assess careers related to reptile and the reptile business.
- Help a friend make a decision about reptile ownership.
- Research diseases in reptiles.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action for a disease in your reptile.
- Do a presentation on how reptiles affect the environment and humans.

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



# Expand Your Experiences!

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Research nutritional needs of your reptile(s) and compare to needs of other animals.
- Explore the need for biosecurity measures when handling reptiles.
- Create a poster on the anatomy of your reptile and the difference between hot and cold blooded animals.

## Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your reptile.
- Discuss your reptile’s life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Create a display or skit on rules for reptile safety.

## Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantage individuals.
- Use showing/raising your reptile(s) as a cultural exchange with other nations.
- Create a global map of the origins of a variety of reptile species.

## Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for another animal at a community or club event.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader.

### Resources

- Healthy Pets  
[www.cdc.gov/healthypets](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets)
- University of Illinois Pet Columns  
[vetmed.illinois.edu/pet\\_columns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns)
- American Vet Med Association  
[www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp](http://www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp)
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR  
[www.redcross.org/pets](http://www.redcross.org/pets)
- California State Fair  
[www.castatefair.org](http://www.castatefair.org)
- Reptile Magazine  
[www.reptilesmagazine.com/](http://www.reptilesmagazine.com/)
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists  
<http://www.asih.org/>

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p><b>Presentation Days</b> – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p><b>Field Days</b> – 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p><b>County &amp; State Fair</b> - Enter your animal(s) and show the judge what you have learned!</p> <p>Contact your UC Cooperative Extension office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Development through Veterinary Science <a href="http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/">http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/</a></li> <li>• Pet Curriculum                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pet Pals Level 1</li> <li>-Scurrying Ahead Level 2</li> <li>-Scaling the Heights Level 3</li> <li>-Helpers Guide <a href="http://shop4-H.org">http://shop4-H.org</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<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 <a href="http://ucanr.edu/orb/">http://ucanr.edu/orb/</a></p>

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