

4-H

Cat Proficiency

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Cat Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. Your project leader will assist you in setting and achieving your goals. You will learn the basic principles of animal husbandry by owning and/or caring for an keeping records on one or more Cats.

There are many resources to help you learn more about your project:

- ◇ The University of California Davis has free resources available online by visiting: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/4HYouthDevelopment/>. This site lists a variety of project materials and resources recommended for use in your project.
- ◇ The Del Norte County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, dvds, and reference materials that can be checked out be members and leaders.
- ◇ Check to see if there are organizations in your community that conduct educational activities and shows. Local artists can be an excellent source of help and information.

There are five levels in the Project Proficiency Program. You may choose how many levels you wish to complete:

- ◆ Level I - "Explorer", you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising Cats.
- ◆ Level II - "Producer", you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising Cats.
- ◆ Level III - "Consumer", you become an experienced raiser of Cats.
- ◆ Level IV - "Leader", allows you to show your own leadership potential.

As you work through the proficiency program, your leader will date each skill item as you complete it. When all items in a proficiency level are completed, your leader will sign the Certificate of Achievement.

CATS

Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

Name: _____

- _____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds of cat
- _____ 2. Identify 5 parts of your cat from a diagram or live animal
- _____ 3. Demonstrate (show and tell) how to handle your cat properly
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment necessary for the health of your cat.
- _____ 5. Explain the nutritional requirements of your cat at each development stage (how, when, what, how much to feed).
- _____ 6. Explain how to tell when your cat is ill and when to get veterinary help
- _____ 7. State the normal range of weight for the age and breed of your cat
- _____ 8. Explain or demonstrate how to tell the sex of your cat
- _____ 9. Explain how to permanently tattoo, mark, or microchip your cat for identification.
- _____ 10. Submit management records for 30 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, food, litter box changes, and flea treatments.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for your cat
- _____ 12. Define 15 basic terms
- _____ 13. Find out what licensing is required in your area
- _____ 14. Describe three safety issues related to your cat project
- _____ 15. Present a Cat Project report to your Club.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CATS

Level II - Producer

Date
Completed

Name: _____

- _____ 1. Identify and describe six breeds of cat.
- _____ 2. Identify 10 parts of your cat from a diagram or live animal.
- _____ 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of your cat.
- _____ 4. Describe the stages and length of gestation for your cat.
- _____ 5. Describe how to sanitize your animal's equipment.
- _____ 6. Describe what you can do to protect your cat during hot and cold weather.
- _____ 7. Describe why flea control is necessary.
- _____ 8. Demonstrate competency in the showmanship of your animal.
- _____ 9. Display some information about your project outside of your project group.
- _____ 10. Submit management records for 30 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, food, litter box changes, and flea treatments.
- _____ 11. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge to demonstrate positive citizenship.
- _____ 12. Attend a 4-H event outside of your club.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CATS

Level III - Consumer

Date
Completed

Name: _____

- _____ 1. Contact a local, state, or national association related to cat and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
- _____ 2. Report on the history of cats to your project group or club.
- _____ 3. Explain the importance of spaying and neutering your cat.
- _____ 4. Describe the digestive system for your cat.
- _____ 5. Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional values.
- _____ 6. Keep a reference library about cats.
- _____ 7. Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
- _____ 8. State the normal vital signs of a cat.
- _____ 9. Submit management records for 30 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, food, litter box changes, and flea treatments.
- _____ 10. Research and explain the pros and cons of declawing your cat.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CATS

Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

Name: _____

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 2. Assist in a community service event related to cats.
- _____ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- _____ 4. Write a 300 word essay on something related to cats.
- _____ 5. Submit your essay to the County Extension office for publication in the newsletter.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

has completed the Cat Proficiency

in Del Norte County.

Explorer

Date

Initials

Producer

Date

Initials

Consumer

Date

Initials

Leader

Date

Initials

Researcher

Date

Initials