



4-H CAT PROJECT



Did you know that domesticated cats have been around since 3600 B.C.E? In the 4-H cat project you will learn about the history of cats, selecting and owning a cat, cat health and behavior, and the anatomy of a cat. The cat project will help you:

- Learn and practice animal ownership care and responsibilities.
- Learn about the different cat breeds and characteristics.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cat health and care including nutrition, common health concerns, and grooming procedures.

Starting Out <i>Beginner</i>	Learning More <i>Intermediate</i>	Exploring Depth <i>Advanced</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information and determine the best cat for your family. • Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your cat. • Identify and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques. • Understand the anatomy of a cat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the signs of illness. • Attend a cat show and learn the basics of cat showmanship. • Compare labels on cat foods to make an informed decision on content & price. • Keep a diary of your cat's health and eating habits. • Keep records of all costs and management practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore cat training exercises. • Create a cat ownership budget. • Volunteer at an ASPCA Adoption Day at your local pet store. • Talk to an Animal Control Officer about animal cruelty and neglect. • Understand the role of scientific research in cat husbandry.

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

- Visit your veterinarian and learn about cat first aid.
- Create a map highlighting the origin of different cat breeds. How has this impacted their size, fur and body shape?

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity and practice of washing your hands before and after handling your cat.
- Discuss your cat's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you may feel when they die.

Citizenship

- Visit and volunteer at your local animal shelter.
- Take a Pet First Aid/CPR course through the American Red Cross.

Leadership

- Teach others about the importance of caring for animals.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader.

Resources

- Washington 4-H Cats
<https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?CategoryID=284>
- The Cat Fancier's Association
<http://cfa.org/>
- The International Cat Association
<http://www.tica.org/>
- Pet and Disaster Safety
<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/pet-safety#/About>

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Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p>Cat Shows- Meet with breeders and watch/participate in cat showmanship and judging.</p> <p>Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.</p>	<p>National 4-H Curriculum-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purr-fect Pals, Level 1 • Climbing Up! Level 2 • Leaping Forward, Level 3 • Cat-Helper's Guild <p>http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/cat.aspx</p>	<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>