



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

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><b>Presentation Days</b> – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.</p> <p><b>Cat Shows</b>- Meet with breeders and watch/participate in cat showmanship and judging.</p> <p><b>Field Days</b> – 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><b>National 4-H Curriculum-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purr-fect Pals, Level 1</li> <li>• Climbing Up! Level 2</li> <li>• Leaping Forward, Level 3</li> <li>• Cat-Helper's Guild</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/cat.aspx">http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/cat.aspx</a></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 <a href="http://ucanr.edu/orb/">http://ucanr.edu/orb/</a></p>