

4-H

Pets and Small Animals Proficiency Program

A Member's Guide

OVERVIEW

The 4-H Pets and Small Animals Proficiency program helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H project. You can acquire an understanding of pet care and management practices and skill in following them by owning and caring for pets. You will learn about the scope of the pet industry and how to market pets. You will acquire knowledge of pet ownership and the responsibilities of pet ownership for the home and community. Through this project you will learn to appreciate the contribution of scientific research to the welfare of pets and their use in research.

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 Solano County 4-H Resources and Lending Library at our county 4-H Office includes other books, videos, and reference materials that can be checked out by members and leaders.
- Check to see if there are any local pet breeders in your community as they 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 pets and small animals.
- ◆ Level II – “Producer”, you practice and refine the many skills involved in learning about and raising pets and small animals.
- ◆ Level III – “Consumer”, you become experienced an experienced pet/small animal raiser.
- ◆ Level IV – “Leader”, allows you to show your own leadership potential.
- ◆ Level V – “Researcher”, is for those individuals who want to research a topic in depth, and prepare a paper on a fascinating subject about pets and small animals.

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.

PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS
Level I - Explorer

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Identify and describe three breeds or species.
- _____ 2. Identify parts of your project animal from diagram or live example.
- _____ 3. Demonstrate how to handle the animal properly.
- _____ 4. Describe the basic housing and equipment that a beginner needs for the health, care and safety of the animal.
- _____ 5. Explain the nutritional requirements of your animal at each development stage (how, when, what, how much, what kind to feed).
- _____ 6. Explain how to tell when your animal is ill and when to call for assistance.
- _____ 7. State the normal range of weight for the age and breed/species of your animal.
- _____ 8. Explain or demonstrate how to tell the sex of your animal.
- _____ 9. Explain how to permanently tattoo, mark, or tag your animal for identification.
- _____ 10. Submit management records for a minimum of 90 days that indicate how often you provide fresh water, clean feed, clean housing, and general care to your animal.
- _____ 11. Demonstrate basic grooming techniques and equipment necessary for your animal.
- _____ 12. Define fifteen important, basic terms used in your project area.
- _____ 13. Find out the regulations related to raising/keeping animals where you live. Explain at least two courtesies expected for animal husbandry in your community and neighborhood.
- _____ 14. Describe three safety issues related to your animal project.
- _____ 15. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS Level II - Producer

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Identify and describe six breeds or species.
- _____ 2. Describe which breeds of your animal are used for different purposes (example: food, fiber, show, breeding, working, etc.)
- _____ 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of your animal.
- _____ 4. Participate in the permanent identification of your animal species.
- _____ 5. Participate in the preparation and/or care of an animal for production, breeding, or birthing.
- _____ 6. Describe how your animal reproduces and state what the gestation period is.
- _____ 7. Describe how you feed your animal species throughout one production cycle (from breeding to weaning).
- _____ 8. Describe or demonstrate how to sanitize your animal's equipment.
- _____ 9. Describe or demonstrate what you can do to protect your animal during hot and cold weather.
- _____ 10. Describe and give control measures for at least three disease or problem conditions.
- _____ 11. Visit an established operation and learn how the animals are housed, fed, watered, bred, how young are cared for, and what and how products are marketed.
- _____ 12. Demonstrate competency in showmanship for your animal.
- _____ 13. Identify which domestic breeds are raised in your area and why.
- _____ 14. Describe some textural differences between species. Identify how/why color is important in the standards of your breed.
- _____ 15. Keep an account of cash expenses for equipment and materials and at the end of your year compare your cost to the value of your project.
- _____ 16. Display your animal outside of your project group.
- _____ 17. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS Level III - Consumer

Date _____
Completed _____

1. _____ Demonstrate how to complete one of the management records required in your species or breed operation (example: pedigree, registration, production record, etc.).
2. _____ Contact a local, state, or national association related to your animal breed and report to your group what the association has to offer to its members and other interested individuals.
3. _____ Report on the history of your breed or species to your project group or club.
4. _____ Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain inbreeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
5. _____ Invite a guest speaker to one of your meetings and introduce them to the group.
6. _____ Describe the digestive system anatomy and physiology for your animal species and how it differs from other species.
7. _____ Explain the different types of feeds/diets and their nutritional components (fats, carbohydrates, protein, minerals, vitamins, water) and nutritional values.
8. _____ Explain three diseases or health conditions and their treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level II.
9. _____ Give a talk on a secondary aspect of by-product of your project industry.
10. _____ Keep a personal reference library of literature that will be helpful in your project.
11. _____ Demonstrate at least three methods of administering medications.
12. _____ State the normal vital signs (temperature, respiration, heart rate, etc.) for your animal species.
13. _____ Describe five ways to save money and be economical in raising your animal.
14. _____ Design an advertisement or a marketing strategy for your animal or animal by-product.
15. _____ Alone or with your group, plan and complete a community service activity related to your project.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS
Level IV - Leader

Date
Completed

- _____ 1. Serve as Junior or Teen leader in this project for one year.
- _____ 2. Assist younger members in constructing needed equipment for this project.
- _____ 3. Prepare teaching materials for use at project meetings.
- _____ 4. Develop and put on a demonstration or judging event or train a junior team for such an event.
- _____ 5. Speak on a project-based subject before an organization other than 4-H.
- _____ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master or with set up, registration, etc.
- _____ 7. Assist younger/new members in actually learning a specific topic in their species.
- _____ 8. Develop your own special activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze success and problems and report your findings.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS
Level V - Researcher

Date _____
Completed _____

1. _____ Report on the results of two different methods of which you used to teach the same exercise. Compare the results.
2. _____ Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following topics:
 - Management of the animal
 - Feeds, feeding, and nutrition
 - Diseases, prevention and control, and general sanitation
 - Markets and methods of marketing
 - Reproduction, breeding and genetics
 - By-product preparation for market, how marketed, and used
 - Keeping and using records for a basis for improving your animal project
 - Other
3. _____ Prepare a speech or illustrated talk to orally summarize your findings and present at a club, project meeting or other educational event.

Member Name: _____ Date: _____

Project Leader's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Certificate of Achievement

This certifies that

*has completed the Pets and Small Animals Proficiency
in Solano County.*

Explorer

Producer

Consumer

Leader

Researcher

Date

Date

Date

Date

Date

Initials

Initials

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Initials

