

# 4-H

## Pets and Small Animals

### Proficiency Program

### A Members's Guide

---

#### Overview

---

Pets and small animals is an interesting 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 a 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.

You can get more information on pets and small animals from bulletins, magazines, and books. In many areas of California, pet breeders maintain breed organizations. These organizations conduct a number of educational activities and small animal shows. 4-H programs in many states, the federal government, and many major pet companies distribute informative publications on various phases of pet and small animal management. Local pet breeders also can be an excellent source of help. Don't hesitate to visit them or telephone them.

The **4-H pets and small animals proficiency program** helps you learn what you need to know about your 4-H pets and small animals project. There are five levels you may participate in - or you may choose to complete only one or two. The first level is "**Explorer**" in which you begin to learn about many different aspects of raising pets and small animals. In the second level, "**Producer**," you practice and refine many skills involved in learning about and raising pets and small animals. In the "**Consumer**" level (third) you become an experienced pet /small animal raiser. The fourth level, "**Leader**," allows you to show your own leadership potential. The last level, "**Researcher**," is for those pet and small animal breeders 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 your pets and small animals project, have your leader initial and date each skill item in a proficiency level when you have completed it. When you have finished all items in a proficiency level, have your leader sign the Certificate of Achievement and order a medal for you from the 4-H office. Congratulations - you have learned a great deal!

Humboldt County  
4-H Incentives and Recognition Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Level I**

**Explorer**

Guidelines for Project Proficiency Award - **Animals** (example projects: beef, cavies, dairy cattle, goats, horse & pony, pets & small animals, poultry & game birds, rabbits, sheep, swine)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify and describe three breeds or species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Identify parts of animal from diagram or live example.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Demonstrate (show & tell) 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 the animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Explain how to permanently tattoo, mark, or tag an 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 of 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/neighborhood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Describe three safety issues related to this animal project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Share one aspect of your project with other project members.

Humboldt County  
4-H Incentives and Recognition Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Level II**

**Producer**

Guidelines for Project Proficiency Award - **Animals** (example projects: beef, cavies, dairy cattle, goats, horse & pony, pets & small animals, poultry & game birds, rabbits, sheep, swine)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Identify and describe six breeds or species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Describe which breeds of your animal are used for different purposes (example: food, fiber, breeding, working, show, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Describe the desirable characteristics in the conformation of the animal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Participate in the permanent identification process of your project animal species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Participate in the preparation and/or care of facilities of the animal for production, breeding, or birthing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Describe how your animal reproduces and state what the gestation period is.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Describe how to 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 diseases 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 of 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. Do something creative with your project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Display your animal outside of your project group.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Help someone else by sharing your knowledge or by giving away a product from your project to demonstrate positive citizenship.

Humboldt County  
4-H Incentives and Recognition Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Level III**

**Consumer**

Guidelines for Project Proficiency Award - **Animals** (example projects: beef, covies, dairy cattle, goats, horse & pony, pets & small animals, poultry & game birds, rabbits, sheep, swine)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Demonstrate how to read and/or 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 determine what this association has to offer you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Report the history of your breed or species.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Make a chart that explains how good selection can improve your stock. Explain in-breeding, line-breeding, out-breeding, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Invite and introduce a guest speaker at one of your meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 or describe three diseases or health conditions and their treatment and/or preventions not covered in Level II.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Report on a secondary aspect or 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 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.

Humboldt County  
4-H Incentives and Recognition Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Level IV**

**Leader**

**Guidelines for Project Proficiency Award - Animals** (example projects: beef, cavies, dairy cattle, goats, horse & pony, pets & small animals, poultry & game birds, rabbits, sheep, swine)

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Complete one year as Junior or Teen leader in this project.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Assist younger members in designing and constructing needed equipment.
- \_\_\_\_ 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 your 4-H group.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Assist at a show as a clerk, secretary, recorder, assistant to the judge, ring master, with set-up, registration, etc.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Assist younger members in actually learning a specific topic in the project.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. Develop your own special activity. Chart your progress, plan the activities, analyze successes and problems, and report on findings.

Humboldt County  
4-H Incentives and Recognition Program

name \_\_\_\_\_

**Level V**

**Researcher**

Guidelines for Project Proficiency Award - **Animals** (example projects: beef, cavies, dairy cattle, goats, horse & pony, pets & small animals, poultry & game birds, rabbits, sheep, swine)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Carry through and report on the results of a demonstration comparing measurable differences in management procedure. (experiment)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Prepare a paper of 300 words or more on one of the following subjects. Orally summarize report at project meeting or other educational event.
  - Management of 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 as a basis for improving your animal project.
  - Other