

4-H CAVY PROJECT



Did you know that a cavy is what we commonly know as a guinea pig? In the cavy project, you can learn about selection and raising your animals, but also dive into health issues, management practices, and careers!

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on one or more head of cavies.
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
- Learn about the important breeds and varieties of cavies and their characteristics.
- Investigate marketing, project expansion, and how you can start a cavy business.

Starting Out <i>Beginner</i>	Learning More <i>Intermediate</i>	Exploring Depth <i>Advanced</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight groups. • Determine the use of your cavy projects. • Develop a cavy care management plan. • Identify cavy equipment and its uses. • Locate and name parts of a cavy. • Learn proper feeding techniques. • Discover proper cavy showmanship steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to judge cavies and give oral reasons. • Design a plan for preparing cavies for show. • Learn proper grooming techniques. • Learn proper techniques for ear tagging cavies. • Learn about diseases and environment concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about cavy breeding programs and genetics. • Manage your caviary. • Determine pregnancy and palpation techniques. • Design a caviary. • Identify bones on a skeleton. • Evaluate cavy health. • Complete a cavy pedigree and registration paper. • Market your cavies to others. • Expand your project into other areas.

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 explore what they love about animals.

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 taking care of an animal can make them 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, Engineering, and Technology

- Research the nutritional needs of cavies and compare to nutritional needs of humans and other mammals.
- Explore the need for bio-security measures when handling animals. Create a list of recommendations for competitive cavy events.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the benefits and practice of washing your hands before and after handling your cavy.
- Discuss your cavy's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Create a display or skit on rules for cavy safety.

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Bring your cavies as therapy for sick and disadvantaged individuals.
- Use showing/raising of cavies as a cultural exchange with other nations.

Leadership

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

Resources

- American Cavy Breeders Association
www.acbaonline.com/
- American Rabbit Breeders Association
www.arba.net/
- American Red Cross Pet First Aid/CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- Service Animal
[/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal)
- Animal Assisted Therapy
[/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy)
- Healthy pets
www.cdc.gov/healthypets
[//vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns)
www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp
- California State Fair
www.bigfun.org

Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a cavy presentation.</p> <p>Field Days – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p>County & State Fair - Enter your cavy or cavies and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship! Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [book] Guinea Pig: A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing • ARBA Standard of Perfection http://www.arba.net/ • Learning Lab Kit: Rabbit • Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A) • Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B) • Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C) <p>Available from http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-pets/06374.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pocket Pets Guinea Pig 	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal 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 www.ca4h.org/4hbook.</p>

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University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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