



# 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.

## 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

### 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

### 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

#### Starting Out *Beginner*

- 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.

#### Learning More *Intermediate*

- 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

#### Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- 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.



# 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

## 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>

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</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 <a href="http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/cat.aspx">http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/cat.aspx</a></li> </ul>	<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>

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility

