The 4-H reptiles project helps you explore what kind of reptile fits into your family’s lifestyle and how to be an excellent caretaker of your lizards, snakes, turtles, or tortoises.

- Identify different reptile species and their characteristics.
- Learn about the selection, care, needs of reptiles, and basic principles of reptile behavior.
- Demonstrate care and management in feeding, handling, grooming, and fitting/showing.
- Explore health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments.
- Learn and practice animal ownership responsibilities.

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- Gather information and determine the best reptile for your family.
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your reptile.
- Create a plan to prevent your reptile from getting lost and/or finding it.
- Purchase and use appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Compare prices to shop for setting up a terrarium.
- Prepare for participation in a reptile show.
- Make a decision about breeding or not breeding your reptile.
- Compare labels on reptile foods to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of your reptile’s health and eating habits.
- Learn to identify parts of your reptile for conversations with your vet.
- Practice appropriate training for your reptile.
- Develop a business plan for a reptile care or sitting business.
- Assess careers related to reptile and reptile business.
- Help a friend make a decision about reptile ownership.
- Research diseases in reptiles.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action for a disease in your reptile.
- Do a presentation on how reptiles affect the environment and humans.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.
Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Research nutritional needs of your reptile(s) and compare to needs of other animals.
- Explore the need for biosecurity measures when handling reptiles.
- Create a poster on the anatomy of your reptile and the difference between hot and cold blooded animals.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your reptile.
- Discuss your reptile’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 reptile safety.

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantage individuals.
- Use showing/raising your reptile(s) as a cultural exchange with other nations.
- Create a global map of the origins of a variety of reptile species.

Leadership

- Teach others the importance of caring for another animal at a community or club event.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader.

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**Connections & Events**

**Presentation Days** – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.

**Field Days** – 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

**County & State Fair** - Enter your animal(s) and show the judge what you have learned!

Contact your UC Cooperative Extension office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.

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**Curriculum**

- Youth Development through Veterinary Science
  [http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/](http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/)

- Pet Curriculum
  - Pet Pals Level 1
  - Scurrying Ahead Level 2
  - Scaling the Heights Level 3
  - Helpers Guide
  [http://shop4-H.org](http://shop4-H.org)

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**4-H Record Book**

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.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit [http://ucanr.edu/orb/](http://ucanr.edu/orb/)

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**Resources**

- Healthy Pets
  [www.cdc.gov/healthypets](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets)
- University of Illinois Pet Columns
  [vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumns)
- American Vet Med Association
  [www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp](http://www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp)
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR
  [www.redcross.org/pets](http://www.redcross.org/pets)
- California State Fair
  [www.castatefair.org](http://www.castatefair.org)
- Reptile Magazine
  [www.reptilesmagazine.com/](http://www.reptilesmagazine.com/)
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

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