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.

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<th>Starting Out</th>
<th>Learning More</th>
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<td>Beginner</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Gather information and determine the best cat for your family.</td>
<td>- Understand the signs of illness.</td>
<td>- Explore cat training exercises.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding of your cat.</td>
<td>- Attend a cat show and learn the basics of cat showmanship.</td>
<td>- Create a cat ownership budget.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Identify and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.</td>
<td>- Compare labels on cat foods to make an informed decision on content &amp; price.</td>
<td>- Volunteer at an ASPCA Adoption Day at your local pet store.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Understand the anatomy of a cat.</td>
<td>- Keep a diary of your cat’s health and eating habits.</td>
<td>- Talk to an Animal Control Officer about animal cruelty and neglect.</td>
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<td>- Keep records of all costs and management practices.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>- Understand the role of scientific research in cat husbandry.</td>
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The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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?

4. **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 community, improve their character or establish connections.
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 you may feel when they die.

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.

Connections & Events

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

Cat Shows - Meet with breeders and watch/participate in cat showmanship and judging.

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

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.

Curriculum

National 4-H Curriculum -
- Purr-fect Pals, Level 1
- Climbing Up! Level 2
- Leaping Forward, Level 3
- Cat-Helper’s Guild

http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/cat.aspx

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/

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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

About

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.