“Lions, Tigers, and Bears, oh my!” do not make good pets, but many other animals do. The 4-H Pets and Small Animals projects helps youth explore the wide variety of pets available. Youth will also learn about the types of pets that fit best into their family.

- Identify breeds and animal species and their characteristics.
- Learn about the selection, care, needs of pets, and basic principles of pet 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.

### Starting Out
**Beginner**
- Gather information and determine the best pet for the member’s family.
- Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding.
- Create a plan to prevent your pet from getting lost or finding it if it gets lost.
- Purchase and use the appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Shop comparatively for setting up a vivarium (habitat) appropriate for your pet.

### Learning More
**Intermediate**
- Plan a training and exercise program for your pet.
- Prepare for participation in a cat or pet show.
- Compare labels on pet food to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of your pet’s health and eating habits.
- Take a Pet First Aid Class.
- Practice appropriate training for a pet.

### Exploring Depth
**Advanced**
- Develop a business plan for a pet care or sitting business.
- Assess careers related to pets and pet business.
- Research diseases in pet mammals, birds, and fish.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action for a disease in your pet.
- Do a presentation on how pets affect the environment.
- Appreciate the contribution of scientific research to the welfare of pets and their use in research.

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 the nutritional needs of your animal(s) and compare to nutritional needs of humans and other animals.
- Create a poster on the anatomy of your animal and/or the difference between hot and cold blooded animals.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your pet.
- Discuss your pet’s life expectancy and what to look for when they get older.
- Create a display or skit on safety rules concerning pets.

Citizenship

- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantaged individuals.
- Show/raise your animal(s) as a cultural exchange with other nations.
- Volunteer at an ASPCA Adoption Day at local pet stores.

Leadership

- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader.
- Help younger members learn about taking care of animals.
- Create a movement in your community for the adoption of rescue animals.

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<tr>
<th>Connections &amp; Events</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
<th>4-H Record Book</th>
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<td><strong>Presentation Days</strong> – Share what you’ve learned through a pet animal-related presentation.</td>
<td><strong>The Veterinarian’s Way of Selecting a Proper Pet (4H 560A)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>Field Days</strong> – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</td>
<td><strong>Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A)</strong></td>
<td>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.</td>
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<td><strong>County &amp; State Fair</strong> - Enter your animal(s) or poster about your animal(s) and show the judge what you have learned! Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.</td>
<td><strong>Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B)</strong></td>
<td>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <a href="http://ucanr.edu/orb/">http://ucanr.edu/orb/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Pet Leader Guide (4H 563 LDR)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Check out the ANR site for free downloadable curriculum - <a href="http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu">anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu</a></strong></td>
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University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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