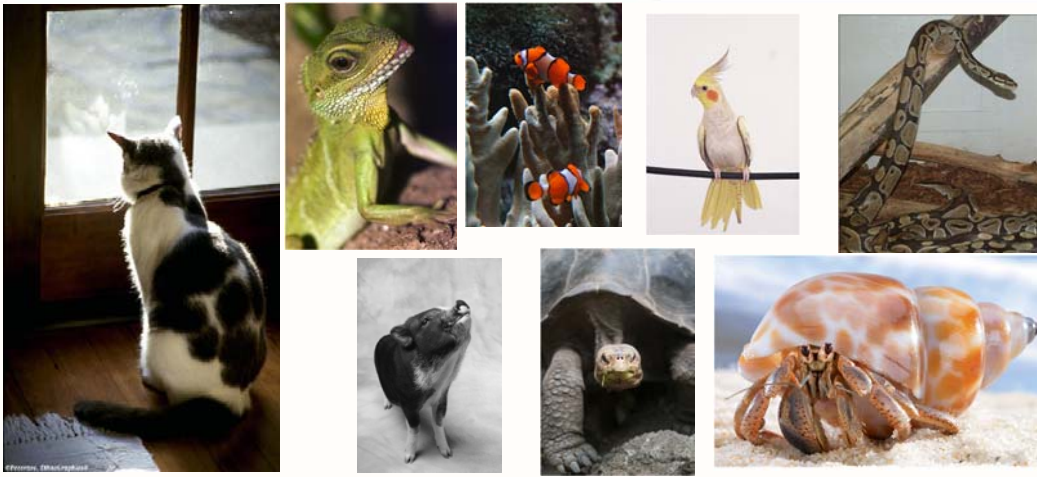




# 4-H PETS AND SMALL ANIMALS PROJECT



“Lions, Tigers, and Bears, oh my!” do not make good pets, but many other animals do. The 4-H Pets and Small Animal 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.

## 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 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 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.

### 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 & cold blooded animals.

## Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your pet.
- Discuss your pet's life expectancy, 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/teen leader in your project.
- Help younger members learn about taking care of animals.
- Create a movement in your community for the adoption of rescue animals.

## Resources

- Iowa 4-H Pets  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/pets.htm](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/livestock/pets.htm).
- 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](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets)  
[//vetmed.illinois.edu/pet\\_columns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns)  
[www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp](http://www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp)
- For Cat Fanciers  
[//kids.cfa.org/](http://kids.cfa.org/)
- Cats and Wildlife: a Conservation Dilemma  
[//wildlife.wisc.edu/extension/catfly3.htm](http://wildlife.wisc.edu/extension/catfly3.htm)
- American Red Cross Pet First Aid/ CPR  
[www.redcross.org/pets](http://www.redcross.org/pets)
- California State Fair  
[www.bigfun.org](http://www.bigfun.org)

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



Connections & Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p><b>Presentation Days</b> – Share what you've learned through a pet animal related presentation.</p> <p><b>Field Days</b> – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.</p> <p><b>County &amp; State Fair</b> - 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Veterinarian's Way of Selecting a Proper Pet (4H 560A)</li> <li>• Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A)</li> <li>• Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B)</li> <li>• Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C)</li> <li>• Pet Leader Guide (4H 563 LDR)</li> <li>• Check out the ANR site for free downloadable curriculum - <a href="http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu">//anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu</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> <p>To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit <a href="http://ucanr.edu/orb/">http://ucanr.edu/orb/</a></p>